

By Radhakrishna Rao

Heading for a 'billionaire status' in population growth

BANGLORE, India — With a current population of around 750 million growing at an annual rate of 2.2 per cent, India is on its way to becoming a demographic billionaire by the turn of the century.

Population experts have warned that if recently-introduced measures fail to curb drastically the current growth rate, India could be the most populous nation on earth by the year 2020.

According to latest projections, by 2020 the Indian population will be a little higher than China's population, which then will be 1.5 billion.

China, which currently has just over a billion people, is encouraging one-child families in a bid to achieve zero population growth.

Significantly, China's average annual growth rate fell from 2.37 per cent in 1970-75 to 1.17 per cent in 1980-85.

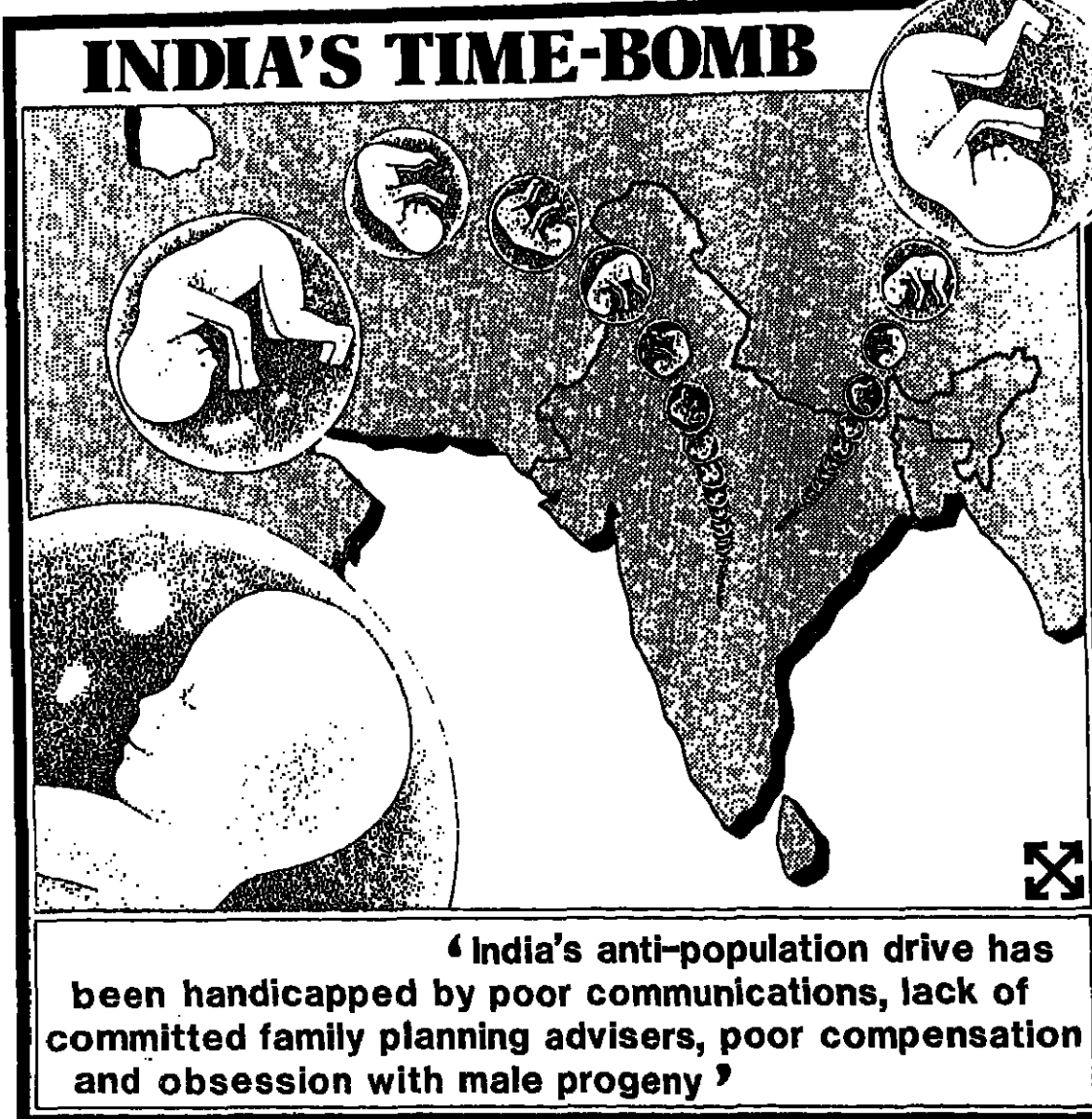
Population growth in India, however, increased from 1.26 per cent in 1951 to 2.28 per cent in 1981.

Strong political commitment to small families, an efficient family planning machinery and a desire to achieve better living standards have provided a powerful impetus to curb the Chinese population.

The family planning message is everywhere in China — on billboards, hoardings and consumer items such as matchboxes, handkerchiefs and even chopsticks. The message also is plugged on TV and radio. China offers lucrative incentives to practise family planning.

While those undergoing sterilization operations in India receive a payment of 350 rupees (\$27), adherents to family planning in China receive a lifetime benefit equivalent to more than \$1,500.

In contrast to the imaginative and efficient Chinese programme, India's anti-population drive has been handicapped by poor communications strategy, lack of committed advisers and volun-



teers, poor compensation, and an obsession with male progeny.

A recent survey by the Ministry of Health and Planning throughout India's seven states concluded

that the communications strategy in propagating the concepts of family planning and family welfare

has failed to create the required base of knowledge.

It recommended a "Thorough review" of ways to meet the challenge, especially in removing unfounded fears about different family planning methods.

India's poor child survival rate illustrated by an infant mortality rate of 104 per 1,000 live births is a major factor in the decision to have more children.

Another hindrance to small families is the widespread desire to male children, which ironically has been boosted by the family planning motto, "One boy, one girl — for a small family."

The authorities are by no means enthusiastic about India's prospective demographic billionaire status.

A new national family planning policy introduced last year aims to achieve by August 1989 targets originally set for the year 2000.

Its goal is to cut annual population growth to 1 per cent, against 2.2 per cent over the last 25 years. This requires that some 10 per cent of couples in the reproductive age group be covered by family planning.

A two-million strong corps of women volunteers will be created to motivate couples to practice family planning and reduce infant mortality through universal immunization and oral rehydration therapy.

Other measures to get home the message include:

— Raising of the legal marriage age from the present 18 years to 21.

— Better incentives for those who practise family planning.

— Teaching of family planning motivation to the country's 60,000 medical students.

According to Health and Family Welfare Minister Krishna Kumar, the new measures could help stabilize its population at 850 million by the year 2000 and attain zero population growth by the year 2050.

India set a record in 1985 by bringing 19 million people into family planning — a 20 per cent increase from 1984.

No-one, however, underestimates the enormity of the task ahead — *Compass News Features*.

Labrador Indians fight risks to lifestyle, health

By Karim H Karim
Special to The Star

MONTREAL — Plans to build a \$375 million military base in a remote area of Canada have pitted a small native Indian tribe against the government. The 850-strong Innu, who live in the sparsely-populated Labrador region of Newfoundland province, fear environmental disruption of their traditional subsistence lifestyle.

Canada is competing with Turkey to build a Tactical Fighter and Weapons Training Centre for the 18-member North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). A decision will be made at NATO's Brussels headquarters in April. Other NATO members have long criticized Canada for what they say is its relatively small contribution to the military alliance. The Progressive Conservative government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, elected in 1984, has been attempting to erase this image by increasing military spending and supporting multilateral defence projects.

The proposed \$375 million training facility at the twin settlements of Happy Valley-Goose Bay in Labrador is a key feature of this policy. A Canadian Defence Department publicity brief says the new base would "reaffirm Canada's strong commitment to the NATO alliance."

Goose Bay has been a military center since 1941, when the United States established an air base there. The local economy, which had become dependent on the base, was crippled when the Americans left seven years ago. Other military activity continued, however. Since 1980, the British and West German air forces have tested Vulcan, Tornado and Alfa jets on low-level flights over the region, whose terrain resembles that of the northern Soviet Union.

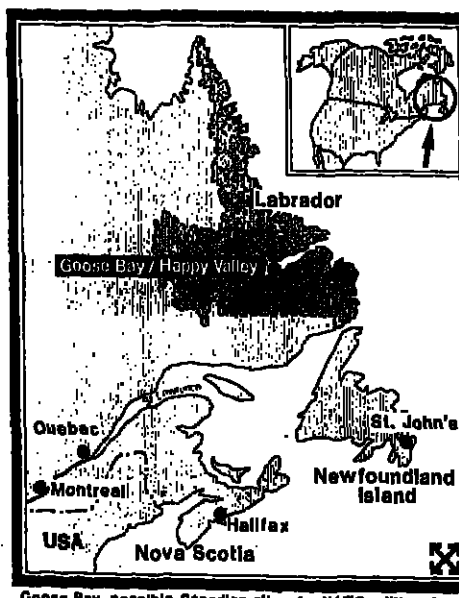
Canada recently signed bilateral flight testing accords with two other NATO members, the Netherlands and Belgium, and a 10-year, \$75 million project to upgrade current military facilities at Goose Bay was approved last year by the Canadian government.

A brochure outlining the NATO base proposal emphasizes the "availability of 64,000 square kilometres of airspace for low-level flying down to 50 metres." The Innu have protested that aircraft screeching at tree-top level cross the tundra, lakes and mountain ranges where they hunt and fish endanger their health and lives.

Francois Bellefleur, an Innu hunter, recalled an encounter with lowflying jets while out in a canoe with his children. "We couldn't hear them coming up behind us on the river. We couldn't hear them at all," he said. My children jumped out of the canoe when the planes took us by surprise, because there were frightened. "If they had jumped in deep water, I could have lost them."

Canadian Transport Minister John Crosbie, a Newfoundlander, played down the Innu's concerns while speaking recently to NATO officials visiting Goose Bay. At a dinner reception — to which Innu leaders were not admitted because they were not wearing ties — Crosbie compared the noise level of the jets with "listening to stereo headphones." Colonel John David, commander of the base, said, "Given the decibel level of the aircraft noise, you would have to overfly a person 450 to 800 times in order to surpass the American-set noise level."

A medical report compiled by a native group, using statistics gathered by US and West German air forces, contradicts David's claim. It says the pain threshold of the human ear is 110 to 130 decibels, and irreversible ear damage can occur from a



noise that exceeds 140 decibels for five milliseconds. According to the report, humans do not have the ability to prepare for the intensity of the sharply rising "impulsive noise" generated by aircraft.

Peter Amittage, an anthropologist who has worked for several years in Innu communities, is critical of government health advice on dealing with the intense noise. "It suggests that the Innu be taught methods of coping with the noise of the planes," he said. "How do they expect the Innu to control an involuntary reaction?" Bert Jack of the Innu National Council said that the tribe's hunting camps are huddled together and the cramped people are afraid to spread out in the wilderness for fear of lowflying jets. As a result, more of them are competing for less game.

Commander David said he had asked the Innu to submit hunting plans so that flight routes could be altered to ensure no flying was done within three kilometres of hunting camp. "We can move on a daily basis, or even an hourly basis, if given notice," he said. The Innu, however, are sceptical about how far the military is willing to accommodate them.

Peter Panashue, Innu leader, maintained that Labrador — which has a total population of only 35,000 — belongs to his people and that they do not have to inform others how they use their land. The Innu refer to Labrador as Nitassinan, which means "our land."

Deron Westman, of the Committee for the Demilitarization of Nitassinan based in Montreal, said, "At the moment, Nitassinan is still legally the Innu's land. The treaty negotiations are still in progress. The Canadian government is negotiating with the Innu and going full steam ahead with the NATO proposal. That's negotiating in bad faith."

Asked Panashue, "Why is the military here without our consent?" The Canadian government has opened the door of its house and let in foreign military to have a cup of tea. You don't do that in your house do you? When did we lose our rights? When did we cease to be a people?"

Canadian Defence Minister Perrin Beatty told the Innu National Council last September that even though their land claims were not settled, the government has the right to negotiate to expropriate it and the right to do things for "the common good." An official environmental impact study on the effects of flight testing in Labrador is currently underway. According to Carol Martin of the government study panel, the training centre proposal could be scrapped if environmental concerns override potential military or economic benefits.

The Concrete Invasion

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flocking to the silk road

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March 1987

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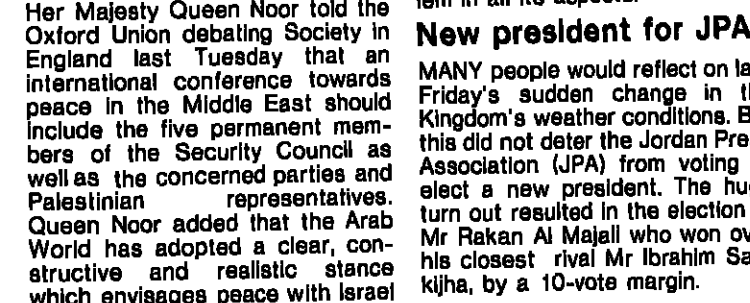
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Prime Minister Rifal pointed out that there has been no reduction of spending in implementing the 1986-1990 Five-Year Plan, though the private sector has failed to invest sufficient funds during the first year of the plan because of the economic situation prevailing in the region.

Her Majesty Queen Noor returned home last Monday night on board the new Airbus 300-31 plane which has joined the Royal Jordanian fleet. The new plane is one of six airbus planes Jordan has recently rented. His Majesty King Hussein met Queen Noor at the airport accompanied by several high government officials.



● Under the patronage of H. E. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the "Islamic Awakening"

● A Royal Decree has been issued to approve a pension scheme for members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA). Under the journalists pension fund programme, finance for supporting the fund would be an annual JD 20 membership fee, JD 6 of which would come from the journalists monthly salary and other allocations from the JPA's fiscal budget. Under the pension scheme, each journalist who has served for 25 years or more and has reached the age of 60 will be entitled to a monthly retirement salary of JD 100.

● The Cabinet decided last Saturday during its regular session, to abolish a JD 75 exit fee on non-Jordanian owned refrigerated trucks leaving Jordan in a move to promote exports. The Cabinet also approved the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Egyptian investment company and the Aqaba Regional Authority's budget for 1987.

● The Council of Arab Health Ministers decided last Monday to nominate Jordan as member of the World Health Assembly (WHA) executive board for three-year term, beginning May.

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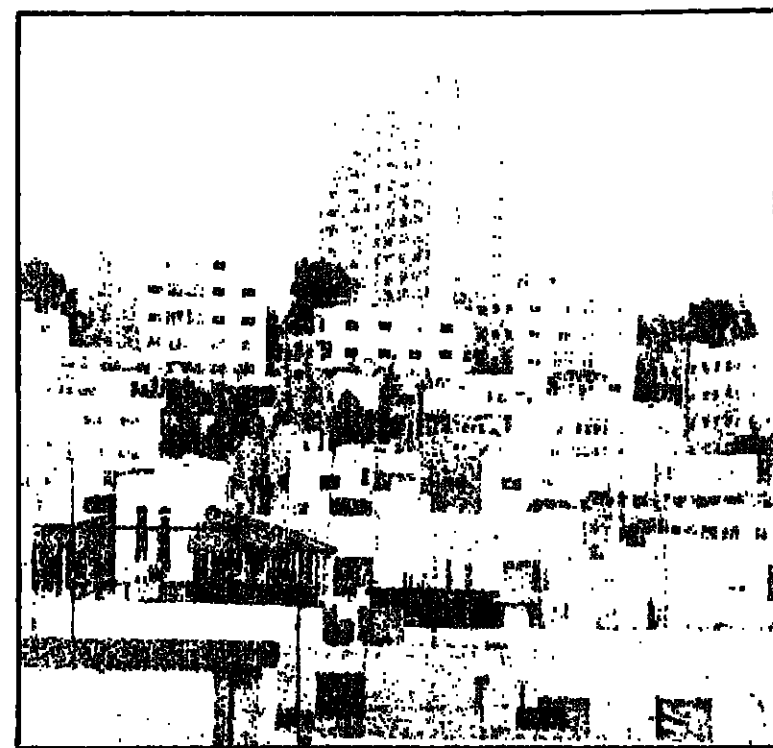
Royal Scientific Society

Jordan University

Amman

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A slow 'death' of our green lands



Comprehensive plans for development should be drawn

Stories, photos on page 4
By Venita Maudsley
Special to The Star

ONLY SIX per cent of the land in Jordan is suitable for agriculture and over the past 25 years, a quarter of that has been covered in concrete. Amman has grown and spread at an alarming rate without thought or planning. Vast areas of the best agricultural land have been ravaged, vineyards and olive-groves have been uprooted, only to be replaced by ugly, characterless concrete blocks.

Mr Anis Muasher, Chairman of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, is very concerned about the situation. On the practical side he says that only a generation ago, all food was home-produced. Now 80 per cent of food is imported. Despite the employment of modern equipment, wheat-production has dropped by 60 per cent. We eat American wheat now, but it may not be available by the end of the century, bearing in mind the increase in the world's population and the universal decrease in agricultural land.

Amman started to expand without consideration of land use. It should have grown to the east where the geological structure is more suitable for building. It is flatter and therefore construction costs would have been much less. As it is, building costs are high and very often there are problems with water rising from underneath and causing dampness. More important than this is the fact that, had Amman grown to the east, a vast area of the best agricultural land in the country, with the highest rainfall, would have been saved. What is tragic and almost incredible is that this destruction of the little agricultural land that is left is still going on.

To an outside observer it seems that the country is bent on self-destruction, what hope is there for future generations if they have to rely on foreign countries to supply all their needs. It seems that the country should be striving for self-sufficiency in one of man's most basic needs — food — by conserving and putting to the best use what little arable land there is, instead of allowing it to be eaten into and sacrificed to more and more buildings.

Ideally, cities should expand gradually. At the beginning of the century, the population of Amman was 5,000. By 1948, before the influx of Palestinian refugees, it had reached 35,000, but now it is over 1,000,000 and growing rapidly. If the population continues to grow at its present rate, then by the year 2,050, there will not even be enough water to support it.

Some say that it is beyond the point of no return where "returning" were as tedious as going, however, a more positive attitude is necessary.

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature was established, which drew attention to the need for the conservation of natural resources. In the Five-Year-Plan for economic and social development, the Society has taken an active part in the formulation of a plan for the conservation of the environment. In their words, "during the second half of this century, Jordan witnessed rapid expansion in construction, industry, tourism and agriculture, coupled with a large and unexpected increase in population due



Mr Anis Muasher

● Amman should have expanded to the east

● There is inability to institute proper regional planning

● There is absence of comprehensive environmental protection law

● People now build in the fertile valleys

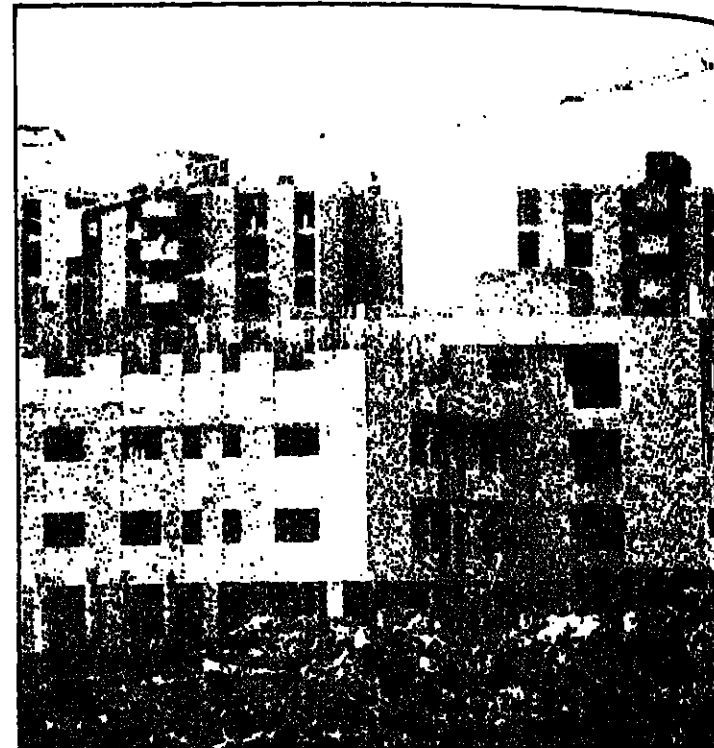
● Best agricultural land is now replaced by ugly concrete blocks

● Rapid growth has resulted in environmental problems

● Most buildings erected are remarkably ugly

● Cities are often unnatural places for habitation

● Amman started to expand without consideration of land use



What is left of the green land is still being ravaged

to the influx of Palestinian refugees and evacuees in the wake of successive Arab-Israeli wars. As a result, local government agencies were unable to institute proper regional planning or provide timely public services.

"A consequence of rapid growth and population increase has been the emergence of environmental problems, especially in the absence of a comprehensive environmental protection law or a specialized department vested with authority to monitor and protect the environment from pollution and ecological erosion. Scarce water resources were exposed to pollution and misuse. Agricultural land

whose area is no more than 6 per cent of the total area of the Kingdom, suffered deterioration and soil erosion as a result of uncontrolled urban growth and green cover diminution. Wildlife was threatened with extinction. Air pollution was on the increase. Disorganized mining threatened to deprive various parts of Jordan of their natural beauty."

The Society aims to influence the people and the government to

make every effort to try and conserve the beautiful countryside not only from an agricultural and economic point of view, but also from an aesthetic viewpoint. Wild-life reserves are being established and every effort is being made to influence government to prohibit building on agricultural land. In the old days, says Mr Muasher, people built their dwellings on barren hilltops and left the fertile valleys for growing the crops.

Some countries draw up plans for the development of municipal areas, then water and sewage pipes are laid as well as the installation of electric and telephone wiring, before the roads and houses are built. This is not the case in Amman. Here the houses appear, then the roads, and months and years afterwards those roads are continually dug up for the installation of some necessary service which should have been there long before the road was surfaced, at great expense to the community.

Why should the municipality be continually running after the developers in order to provide the necessary services? Surely there should be some law laid down whereby the developers should have to consult with the municipality before proceeding with yet another "development."

Most of the buildings being erected around Amman today are remarkably ugly. No effort is made to make them look finished. Great iron spikes protrude from the rooftops between the uncompleted water tanks. Most of the buildings have a grey and 'half-baked' appearance, despite the appeal by the mayor asking the people to paint their houses white. How lovely it all could look in winter, as well as the fact that, in summer, a house painted white has a temperature of six degrees lower than one not painted.

All things considered, cities and their suburbs are unnatural places for human habitation. Surely man is more at peace with himself in a rural environment. But granted that cities seem to be necessary in our age, is it not also reasonable to hope that the town and city planners will have respect for the countryside and not try to engulf our remaining beauty in ever-expanding concrete jungle?

By Sandy Rose
Special to The Star

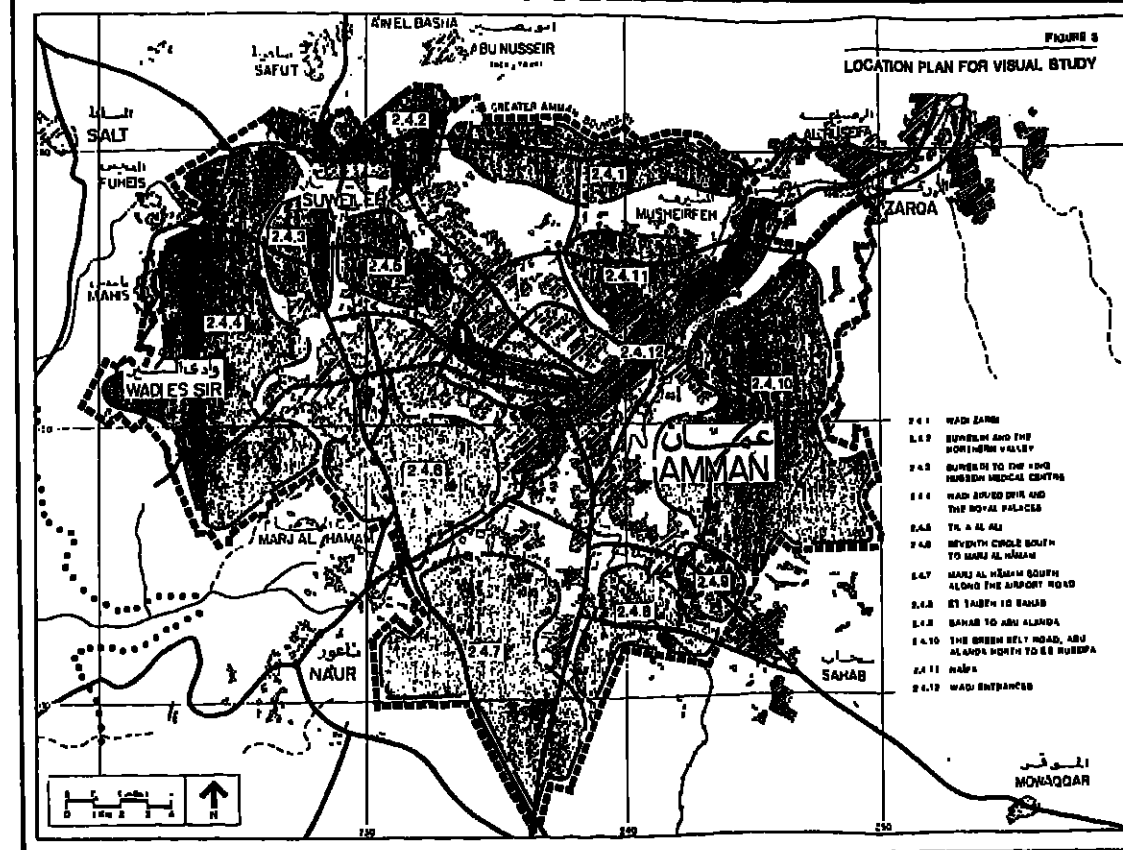
FIRST IMPRESSIONS of Amman are of 'jabal', after (jabal) of cream coloured buildings, densely populated in the older areas, and fast becoming so in the newer ones, where the rate of building going on is astounding. The land not yet built upon is often left untouched except by the inevitable plastic bags and other forms of litter, litter and metaphorically, the wasteland.

What appears to be indiscriminate building in relatively 'green' areas takes place and the shortage of recreational space for Amman leads to football matches among the plastic bags on waste-grounds, or worse still, on the road. All of this seems to be the result of lack of planning on the part of municipal authorities.

Over the last two years, the Joint Technical Team of the Greater Amman Comprehensive Development Plan have been tackling the problems of urban planning and trying to work out the best solutions to them. The project's brief is to prepare a land-use and transportation development plan to guide the next 20 years of development in the city. Not only has the team prepared a long-term urban transport and infrastructure master plans, defined the geographical boundary of Greater Amman, (as indicated in the accompanying photo), but they have also pinpointed two Action-Areas plans for immediate implementation.

The team is led by Dar Al Handasah Consultants whose personnel have been working together with staff from the Municipality of Amman and other government agencies. It is the first time such a comprehensive approach has been taken to the planning of Amman and the chance thus provided for major improvements in urban design is an exciting one. The team has done some work on landscaping and parks and prepared policy documents for implementation by the Municipality.

However, the Municipality Director for the Development Plan, Mr Kamel Jalouqa, described the overall situation as "not very optimistic." The level of provision for parks in the past has been low



A chance for urban renewal

and even that was eroded as time passed. Land confiscated by the Municipality for use as parks, reverted to its original owner, if, after seven years, it had not been used for the original purpose. This is one reason why "green" areas do not abound.

Another is the failure to implement policies made in the past. Apparently, in 1956 a City of Amman plan was prepared by an international consultant based upon the green city method of planning, which provided for a green belt linking areas of the city with the city centre, the Hussein Greater mosque in the heart of Downtown Amman. Although some of this has been carried out, today, much of the land intended for this inter-linking green belt is being used for other purposes. Jabal Nazer is an example; the land was reserved for the spring at Ras Al Ain but this has been built upon.

The same thing has happened in north Amman.

Why has this happened?

Partly, it seems, the plan of 1956 was itself at fault, having been based on inaccurate figures. Estimates of population growth have been exceeded. Almost half of Jordan's population is concentrated in Amman, the Kingdom's fastest growing urban area. The population, within the project area, which covers 512 sq. km, is expected to double, from 800,000 in 1985 to almost 2,000,000 in 2005. The rapid pace of urban growth during the past two decades has overtaken the capabilities of planning, municipal and infrastructure administrations.

Clearly there has been enormous pressure on the land; "green" areas have been put to uses "more vital", such as providing space for police-stations, schools or development. It seems the land

on which the Annra Hotel now stands was earmarked for parkland, but the previous Municipality who owned the land, put this land as its share into the company which built the hotel and then sold out.

Of course, with Jordan's limited agricultural potential, agricultural land is precious and should be used solely for this purpose. The potential for such use in the Greater Amman area is generally greater than that exploited at present, according to one study by the Joint Technical Team.

Apart from failure to implement policies for parkland in the past, great pressure on the land for many other uses, there has also been, until now, a lack of planning or rather just piece-meal planning which helps to account for a lack of recreational space in Amman.

Residents of Amman must have already noticed the small parks of

two to three dunums which being created all over Amman. The Municipality now has a policy of planting 1,000 trees a day in the Greater Amman area, something never done before on this scale. The very popular park at Umm Al Kundum, on the airport road, was opened in 1986 at a cost of JD 17 million. Its purpose is to provide the people of Amman with a large scale recreational area. Present facilities — toilets, picnic and barbecue areas and play equipment — are to be extended to include a zoo, conservation area for flora and fauna, a bird park and a traditional village constructed from dwellings of architectural interest brought from all over Jordan.

Thus much has been done recently to improve the open spaces available to Ammanites. A cause for concern in the future, however, is that zoning will allow for some of the remaining open spaces to be utilized. An example is in Wadi Saqra where already a huge complex — the King Abdullah Park — has covered an attractive area of olive groves and dry-stone wall terraces with concrete monuments. It seems that the land further down the Wadi could also be "developed" in this way according to zoning policy. Sometimes, in order to preserve land for parks, it is necessary for a Municipality to confiscate it and compensate owners at current market prices.

For the future it is up to the Municipality to have the will to see through the recommendations made by the Joint Team of the Greater Amman Comprehensive Development Plan. Already much has been done; for example in the two Action Areas pinpointed by the Joint Team — The Gardens Road in Tlai Ali and the city centre — road widening, tree-planting and pavement building give evidence of immediate policy implementation. The recommendations give an exciting glimpse of what a beautiful city Amman could become if the authorities can include among their other numerous and pressing priorities landscaping. It is something without which a city can function but which can improve the quality of life of its citizens inestimably.

Dental facilities at the doorstep

AMMAN (Star) — Even after 36 years, it seems there is still room for invention and ingenuity in finding ways of delivering health services to Palestinian refugees.

This has been proved in the Syrian Arab Republic, where, in order to get dental health services to three locations in the Damascus area, Unrwa health and transport staff worked together to convert a passenger van for use as a mobile dental clinic.

The idea of a mobile unit had been in the air for some time, but there were no funds available to procure a ready-made one. An old vehicle, used to transport refugees patients to and from hospitals for treatment, had been "surveyed", or written off, and was offered to the Health Department, but there were no funds available to replace it and it couldn't be repaired. Another option considered was to use a normal car to bring a dentist to the camps regularly, but this was impractical, as the heavy dental equipment would have had to be loaded and unloaded each time.

Recalls Unrwa's Field Health Officer in Syria, Dr A.S. Toubah: "I found a mini-bus used to transport health staff in the Aleppo area, and a driver who was available after transporting

staff to the Damascus Vocational Training Centre early each morning. With funds from the Field Director's reserve, the bus was converted by our own Agency workshop, under the



supervision of Mr Adib Hadba, the vehicle maintenance officer. They went to the local market and purchased materials to make cupboards and install a water tank and basin. The chair and basic dental unit were bought with Agency funds. The sterilizer and instruments came from the Health Department. The workshop took out the

seats and put the unit together from scratch."

The unit is now in regular use in three camps in the Damascus area with a total population of 24,000 refugees. People from these camps who needed dental treatment previously had to go on their own to public clinics in Damascus. The Unrwa mobile unit spends two days a week each in Khan Eshieh and Sbeineh camps and one day in Khan Dannoun. Once a week, it goes to schools in the Yarmouk refugee quarter of Damascus to give Unrwa students dental examinations.

The dentist attached to the unit, Dr Su'ad Qasem, is a graduate of Damascus University and previously served for a year at the Unrwa dental clinic in Dera'a camp. Other permanent Unrwa dental units in the Syrian Arab Republic are at the Polyclinic in Damascus (which also serves Jaramana camp), in Yarmouk (also serving) Qabr Esak camps at Neirab camp, Aleppo (also serving) Ein Tal and Aleppo town) and Dera'a serving southern Syria.

In the three camps now served by the mobile unit, Dr Qasem does more than the routine treatment — fillings, extractions and cleaning — for which the mobile unit is equipped. Much of her time is spent



Mobile Unit solves dental problems

on instructing refugee mothers and children in basic dental hygiene. "I ask them to bring their own toothbrushes to the clinic and, with the aid of a mirror, I show them how best to use them," she says.

When she carried out a dental health survey of students at the Unrwa Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Damascus, Dr Qasem found that 47 per cent of them needed dental treatment. The VTC community numbers some 1,000 people (trainees and staff), and Dr Toubah says a way is being sought to get them regular dental attention.

When it is in the camps, the mobile unit parks outside the

Unrwa health centre, where it attracts patients on their way to and from the daily mother-and-child health care clinics. The response has been encouraging, said Dr Qasem on one busy day recently at Khan Eshieh camp (population 11,000). A queue of mothers and children waited outside the open side door of the converted car while the dentist examined a young girl and carefully filled in her dental chart. After the girl had finished, her mother climbed into the chair for what Dr Qasem said may have been her first-ever dental examination. "Many of my patients have never been to a dentist before," said the doctor. "At least now we can come to them."

Arab-Americans prepare for a strategy to win in the US elections

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

WASHINGTON — "Americans of Arab ancestry have contributed greatly in every field, availing themselves of the freedoms and opportunities of this country," according to President Reagan.

In a message to those attending the Arab American Institute (AAI) conference in Washington, the president said, "Their industry, pride and exemplary patriotism have enriched our national life. Their concern for peace and justice in the Middle East helps us promote a negotiating process that will lead to peace and security for all peoples of the area."

More than 200 Arab Americans from 26 states gathered in the nation's capital 13-15 March to attend the third annual AAI conference.

Arab Americans have become increasingly savvy about ways to enter the political mainstream in the United States. The ground work is being laid for higher visibility in the 1988 presidential and congressional campaigns. Strategies are being planned, voters are registering, fund raising is taking place and additional Arab American candidates are stepping forward.

The 2.6 million Arab Americans have yet to stockpile sufficient political clout to be a force throughout the country, but their numbers are sufficient in key areas such as Chicago, Detroit, Houston and San Francisco that effective organization is likely to ensure their collective voice will be heard. Participation, at all levels, is the key to visibility.

"A Strategy to Win" was the theme of this year's leadership conference. While conference attendees sought to sharpen their political tools and strategies, they had an opportunity to hear from would-be presidential candidates who wished to solicit support and spark debate.

Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole was the first to address the group. Although Dole has yet to publicly announce his candidacy, he clearly feels he has "a good opportunity" to secure the Republican nomination and, looking toward the future, said, "I would hope we would continue our efforts to deal with moderate Arab elements around the world."

Dole, who also spoke at AAI's inaugural conference in March 1985, said U.S. policy should be even-handed in the Middle East and he suggested that "a dialogue with all the interested parties is necessary. He stressed, however, that "the leadership in the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) is going to have to shape-up and,

at least, recognize Israel's right to exist."

The president's special assistant for defense and foreign policy brought a message for the group. Linas Kojalis said, "You get influence, you get power by being part of the (political) process." He told them that he is "very optimistic" that the door is open to them in the Republican Party and at the White House.

He also congratulated the Arab Americans for being "absolutely, one of the stars" in the ethnic movement in the US Kojalis is in a position to know, as he deals with 80 different ethnic groups at the White House.

Conference attendees honored Mitchell Daniels, who is the 1987 recipient of AAI's public service and leadership award. Daniels serves at the White House as assistant to the president for political and intergovernmental affairs. He is the highest ranking Arab-American to serve in the Reagan Administration, or any previous US administration. He is of Syrian ancestry.

George Salem, Department of Labour solicitor and the highest ranking Palestinian in the US government, introduced Labour Secretary William Brock. Regardless of your political coloration, Brock said, "the important point is that you be involved." Brock also said, "This community of yours is part of the heartbeat of this country."

The mayor of Yonkers, New York made an appearance at the conference. Angelo Martinelli was there to deliver the message that, "every ethnic group has a right to representation and a piece of the (American political) pie."

In Yonkers Arab Americans are "out there in front" and "recognized as a regular (political) force," according to the mayor. Martinelli pointed out that he appointed the first Arab American to the Yonkers Board of Education.

A variety of workshops were organized for conference participants. They learned how to become delegates for national party conventions and how to conduct voter registration drives. They also learned how to work in a national campaign and how to activate strategies for airing Arab-American issues at state party conventions and platform hearings.

Administration officials reviewed domestic and international issues at the conference. Richard Murphy, assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, examined US policy on the Middle East with respect to the peace process and Lebanon. The peace process requires that attitudes and perceptions be changed,

Murphy explained, noting that the US has seen psychological changes there which it feels can be built upon. Visits to the region have also revealed sentiments favouring negotiations, he said. Murphy stressed that the US seeks a comprehensive peace in the region via direct negotiations.

The US urges an end to the fighting in Lebanon Murphy said. The Reagan Administration continues to support "the independence and sovereignty of that country." The authority of the central government needs to be extended and all foreign forces removed, according to Murphy.

Although Pakistan has always maintained that it does not possess the capacity to assemble a nuclear weapon, Israel has never accepted Pakistan's assurances and kept insisting that the alleged Pakistani threat is directed against the Zionist state.

If the news about these Israeli reconnaissance flights over India are true, then the next news we could expect to hear about is an Israeli attack on Pakistan under the pretext of pre-empting an imminent threat by the so-called Pakistan's nuclear weapon.

We say this could be the next development in this entangled affair because Israel has reacted in a similar manner some years ago when it sent its air-force to knock down Iraq's peaceful nuclear facilities, under the pretext of pre-empting the development of a nuclear weapon by Iraq.

Another reason that is served by all this noise about an alleged Pakistani or Iraqi nuclear threat is that the world attention will be diverted from following Israel's own nuclear activities, and will be turned away from the real source of danger to the safety and security of the whole world, not only of their region.

Israel has adamantly refused until now to open up its nuclear facilities to international independent inspection, although numerous reports seem to confirm that Israel's nuclear activities in "Dimona" and elsewhere involve a definite danger to the Arab World.

The latest report to this effect was made public by the Israeli nuclear expert, Vanunu, who released his top-secret data to a British newspaper last month. In his account, Israel should be placed among the world's first six nations in developing nuclear weapons capabilities.

It is somewhat difficult, however, to deal with news of this sort that come out of Israel every once in a while. Some Arab analysts tend to brush aside the whole issue as a Zionist propaganda or cheap scare tactics that are intended to intimidate the Arab people and achieve certain psychological gains.

But a great degree of danger is involved in this typical reaction by these Arab analysts. It is no doubt much wiser to treat these revelations as true, and to prepare ourselves to counter this threat with utmost awareness and dedication.

Sweeping the whole matter under the carpet, as it were, might give us a temporary, though false, feeling of security. But it is security that is based on precise calculation that we should be striving to achieve.

Pakistan's official denial that it had a nuclear bomb fell on deaf ears in Israel as expected, but it was not also heeded in Washington. The United States has issued a warning to Pakistan against nuclear armament, and said that possessing a nuclear weapon poses a threat to regional and world peace.

I could not agree more with this official American stand on possessing nuclear weapons not only by Pakistan, but also by all countries in the world. Earth is going to be a happier and safer place for all of us when the threat of nuclear arms is finally lifted and or abolished on the world scene.

But we could not help but sense a degree of duplicity in this official stand by the United States. The allegation, rumours and even first-hand reports about Israel's nuclear activities have been going around for decades, and the United States never bothered to look into this issue with any degree of seriousness, let alone issuing an official warning to Israel against developing nuclear weapons.

Unbalanced concern

THE REVELATION that Israel has requested India's permission to allow some of Israel's air-force fighters to fly over Indian air-space, can only be understood in its full ominous implications if we recall that some controversy has arisen in the past few weeks over Pakistan's nuclear capabilities.

Although Pakistan has always maintained that it does not possess the capacity to assemble a nuclear weapon, Israel has never accepted Pakistan's assurances and kept insisting that the alleged Pakistani threat is directed against the Zionist state.

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What has the world community at large done, for instance, to examine the extremely serious confessions of the Israeli atomic technician Mordachai Vanunu, who said that Israel had set nuclear weapons? Did the world community care whether what Vanunu said was wrong or right? Or the issue is not worth looking into because it is only Arabs who could fall victims of Israel's growing nuclear threat?

It should be made clear, however, it is the duplicity and inconsistency in the positions of many countries in the world concerning the rumours about a Pakistani nuclear threat that we are against. We do not support the development of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world. But, assuming that the nuclear activities of both Israel and Pakistan are untrue (although Israel's possession of a nuclear threat is no rumour), shouldn't concerned people everywhere treat both (rumours) or equal footing, and try to find out more about them?

The concern over the development of nuclear weapons should not be politicized, because the dangers involved in it are going to affect large areas of the planet, and it will likely affect the safety and security of our future generations. Immediate response in any revelation or speculation about dubious nuclear activity is no doubt a positive show of concern and dedication, provided that we treat all news of this sort with equal attention and objectivity, and that we keep cheap and short-lived political calculations away from the imminent source of danger.



Libya-Philippines rebels

A leader of the Muslim insurgency in the Southern Philippines said he would not settle for anything short of full autonomy. The Islamic Republic News Agency said it interviewed Nur Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, in Tripoli, Libya. Although the agency used the phrase "full autonomy," it appeared it was referring to the form of "self rule" offered to Misuari by a Philippine government delegation recently.

The Iranian agency did not provide direct quotes of Misuari's remarks. The delegation held talks with Misuari last month in Jeddah, which ended with the rebel leader saying there were "no major obstacles" to reaching agreement on self rule.

The Muslim leader has scaled down earlier demands for full independence for Muslim southern provinces, opting instead for self rule in a federation with the government on self rule in a federation with the government of President Corason Aquino.

Defence official announces resignation

Dov S. Zakheim, the US Defence Department's chief opponent to Israel's new Lavi fighter, will leave his post in less than a month for a job in private industry. Zakheim, 38, has been Deputy Under-Secretary of Defence for Planning and Resources for about 18 months, but has served in other posts at the Pentagon since 1981. He decided to step down to accept a position with the System Planning Corp. in Arlington, Virginia.

Zakheim's plans to resign were first reported Monday by TV stations and newspapers in Israel, where he has gained notoriety for trying to convince the government to abandon its development of the Lavi jet fighter. Israel has so far used more than \$1.3 billion in American aid to develop the fighter,

describing the project's importance to Israeli industry as equal to the US drive to put a man on the moon.

Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger contends the plane cannot be developed and produced within the cost limits set by Israel and will be inferior to the F-16 jet fighters that Israel already has bought from the United States. The task of challenging the programme has fallen to Zakheim, an Orthodox Jew and an ordained Rabbi. In that role, Zakheim has so infuriated some Israeli officials that he has become the subject of personal attack.

Last month, for example, Menachem Eini, chairman of the Lavi project, attacked Zakheim as a "religious Jew who claims to be motivated by love of Israel (who) is in fact causing tremendous damage to Israel."

Sultan clamps ceiling on dowries

Sultan Qaboos has ruled that no man should pay more than 2,000 riyals (\$5,180) for his bride, no matter how attractive she is or how wealthy her family may be. The move is the latest bid by the ruler of Oman against what he calls the "evil" dowry system.

The controversial subject of the amount paid by men to the parents of their prospective brides has become a focal point of the Sultan's annual "meet the people" tour currently in swing throughout the country. The decision of Qaboos to clamp a ceiling on dowries was revealed by the Sultan's special adviser, Hamad Bin Hamoud, in an interview with the government-owned Arabic-language newspaper Oman.

In the same report, Minister of Education Yahya Al-Manthari said that a nationwide campaign



Qaboos

against high dowries would be launched through youth centres, clubs and schools.

The Sultan said that they should work to get rid of it as not all people could afford a high dowry to be able to wed. "Women are not a commodity to be sold or bought," the Sultan said, adding that with the development of society the requirements for marriage of the past were not the same today.

The Israel-Pollard lessons

The Pollard affair has revealed some basic tenets of Israeli society: Heavy emphasis on security, refusal to abandon a fellow soldier and a weakness in the system of checks and balances. Jonathan Jay Pollard, a 32-year-old US Navy intelligence analyst, was sentenced earlier this month in Washington to life in prison for selling military secrets to Israel. His wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, was sentenced to five years in prison for helping him.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's coalition government dis-

avowed any knowledge of Pollard's recruitment and said the spying was a "rogue" operation. But it has since decided to pay \$80,000 to help cover Pollard's legal expenses, Israel radio reported.

The government also has apologized to the United States, which provides \$5 billion annually in aid, and launched a probe of official involvement in the case. The official abandonment of Pollard, an American Jew, angered many people and put pressure on the government to live up to the country's ideals. Nearly all Israelis serve in the army and believe deeply that a colleague must not be deserted on the field of battle.

The widespread support for Pollard was reflected in a Danaei opinion poll published last week in the daily Yediot Ahronot. It found that 88 per cent of the 639 adults surveyed believed the government should help Pollard.

One image of the affairs' most grating to Israelis was that of Pollard and his wife being turned away from the Israeli embassy in Washington. "Forget about the politics of the situation, who did what, who knew what," said Amnon Dror, one of the organizers of a citizens campaign that raised \$10,000 toward Pollard's legal defence. "What is important is that Israelis don't just leave someone hanging. We don't leave someone outside, banging on locked gates," said Dror, 58, a member of the elite pre-state Palmach commandos.

Some see recruiting an American to spy despite extensive intelligence sharing between the United States and Israel as an example of overemphasis on security. Harry Wall, Israel Director of the Anti-Defamation League of the American Jewish Organization

B'nei Brith, said that the Pollard

case "demonstrates Israel's preoccupation, almost obsession, with security taken to unacceptable limits."

Wall said the roots of such security-consciousness could be seen in the Nazi Holocaust, highlighted in the current trial of former US autoworker John Demjanjuk on charges of killing thousands of Jews in the gas chambers of a Nazi death camp. "The lesson there is that, at least for a large number of Israelis, you can't leave your fate in the hands of the goyim," he said, using the Yiddish word for non-Jews.

Former Arab Fund chairman jailed

Jawad Hashim, the former chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund, was found guilty of embezzlement here Monday and sentenced to 79 years in prison and to return \$80.5 million to the fund. The Abu Dhabi criminal court also passed heavy prison sentences on three of Hashim's senior aides and ordered that the \$80.5 million should be returned to the fund jointly.

Jalal Ahwan, Mahdi Saleh Al-Otaim and Samir Oun were sentenced to 79, 75 and 34 years in prison respectively. "The defendants stole the Arab Monetary Fund's money and forged its documents," the presiding judge, Hisham Al-Sarraj, said in passing sentence. "It is a matter of regret and sadness that the fund, entrusted with Arab money was subjected to criminal action," he added.

The AMF was established by oil-rich Arab states in 1977, along the lines of the International Monetary Fund, to provide balance of payments support for poorer Arab states.

The defendants worked under Hashim at the AMF from 1977 to 1982. They were charged with using AMF funds to finance their own purchase of precious metals in Europe. There was no exact figure immediately available on the total sum misappropriated by the accused.

Tax phobia scares off expatriate voters

By Roderick Smith

Star London Correspondent

THE SPECTRE of the British taxman has frightened expatriates away from registering to vote in the pending general election. Home Secretary Douglas Hurd is personally spearheading a campaign to reassure expats, includ-

Political focus

ing thousands in the Middle East, that a vote for Margaret Thatcher's government will not mean a big tax bill.

The new voting rights for British citizens overseas were included in the last Representation of the People Act after pressure from a House of Commons home affairs committee. The committee wanted all British citizens within the EEC to have voting rights in the UK. The Home Office extended the idea to include all Brits living abroad and there has been intensive lobbying by the Foreign Office as well as advertising campaigns in English-language media.

Experts abroad had to register by last 10 October to be sure of eligibility to vote in one of the most crucial elections in British history which must be held by June next year. Under rules in force since July, British citizens now resident abroad, who have lived within the UK within the last five years, are allowed to register as overseas voters. But many expatriates, including those in Jordan, were scared by the declaration they had

to make to become eligible.

In a letter to Conservatives Abroad, set up to encourage expat voting registration by UK government supporters, Mr Hurd tries to allay the tax fears. "I understand many people have become concerned about the effect on their tax position of signing the new RPF 37 'overseas' voting form," he writes. The declaration to be made on the electoral registration form reads: "I do not intend to reside permanently outside the United Kingdom."

Mr Hurd tells expats: "Signing such a declaration would affect neither the residence nor the ordinary residence status for tax purposes of the person making the declaration. However, he adds: "If it became necessary to consider an individual's domicile status for tax purposes, the declaration would be one of several factors to be taken into account as evidence of his or her long term intentions." "For the majority of people living overseas and maintaining their UK ties, the declaration would merely confirm their UK domicile and their tax position would thus be unaffected."

But: "For the minority who had acquired a foreign domicile through evidence that their UK links had been severed, the declaration could raise the question whether a UK domicile was being reacquired, in which case tax liability could be affected." Mr Hurd points out: "But domicile depends not only on what a person says are his or her intentions, but on what he or she in fact does." A



Mr Hurd

mere declaration on the registration form, unaccompanied by action such as a return to the United Kingdom, would not, of itself, imply reacquisition of a UK domicile."

David Smith, a spokesman for Conservatives Abroad in London, said: "People have tended to regard the whole thing warily. It has become a mess but the fact is that only four-fifths per cent of those domiciled abroad might possibly be affected." The response to the campaign, as predicted last October, has proved disappointing for the Conservatives who want to great trouble and expense to canvass expats feeling they would be more inclined to vote Tory.

The Tories sent more than 100,000 Brits abroad a letter from party chairman Norman Tebbit urging them to register for a vote in their UK home constituencies. The party set up Conservatives

Abroad, under the presidency of Lord Home, former Prime Minister, to encourage registration and voting.

This involves making declarations by 10 October each year, the first time witnessed by a consular official, and allows people to be registered in the constituency where they were eligible to vote before they went abroad. Roughly about half a million people may be eligible worldwide including around 30,000 in the Arabian Gulf and many more throughout the Middle East. Such registration is voluntary and the onus is on party organizations to encourage supporters.

But Mr Smith admitted: "I would not say we have been pleased with the result. About two-and-a-half per cent of eligible people have registered. That does not seem very good. However it compares with the American experience. The United States began the same exercise some years ago. They started with just five per cent but have now registered over 30 per cent of eligible overseas voters."

Figures compiled by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on behalf of the Home Office suggest that 12,000 to 15,000 new expatriate voters have registered. Total extra votes cast from British expats around the world, would, if they were concentrated in a few constituencies, swing more closely fought seats. There is no reason to suppose the votes would be spread evenly throughout some 650 British consti-

tencies. However, 12,000 "new voters" would mean an average of less than 20 per constituency. The expat factor is unlikely to influence the choice of even one MP in the new House of Commons which is likely to assemble by the end of next year.

However Mr. Smith claimed: "We reckon 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the 12,500 are Conservative voters."

If the conservatives have gained the lion's share of the registrations this would be some consolation for the lack of numbers. Conservative Central Office tacticians had argued that a drive to register 500,000 overseas voters could swing a third term of Mrs Thatcher in a close election.

The Social Democrats are hoping for hundreds of voters worldwide with a few dozen from the Arab Gulf States and the Middle East. The SDP has had overseas groups since its original "gang of four" leaders — Dr David Owen, Shirley Williams, Bill Rogers and Roy Jenkins — broke away from the Labour party. Their Liberal allies are also hoping to attract a similar number of new voters.

Frank Parker, who has helped spearhead the Labour party effort, said their new voters could number 800 worldwide with up to 50 in the Middle East, many from Saudi Arabia. Mr. Parker, the Member-ship Officer based at the Labour HQ in 160 Watlington Road, London, said he would welcome enquiries from British residents overseas wishing to join the party.

The Jerusalem Star

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Published every Thursday in Amman by the Jordan Press & Publishing Co. Ltd.,
(Ad-Dustour), Telex 21392 Media Jo., FAX. 667170, Tel. 664153, 667177, 8, 9,
P.O. Box 591, Amman - Jordan.

Shedding light

DEMOCRACY in simple terms, refers to a system in which the people are involved in administration; where the leaders do not leave the citizens in the dark on matters of national interest. This is exactly what transpired when the Prime Minister Mr Zaid Rifai. In an interview with members of the local press, threw light on a host of sensitive economic and social issues.

In the interview, the Prime Minister clarified in unambiguous terms, a number of governmental initiatives which have of late attracted much attention. This could be viewed as going a long way to assuage the sentiments of most citizens, who out of ignorance, have been feeling uneasy about the country's economic status. It has also taken place at the appropriate time which has immensely promoted public understanding of the steps taken to hasten development and progress in Jordan.

The prime minister's breakdown of the country's healthy economic climate in everyday parlance, devoid of incomprehensible economic jargons, should naturally bring smiles and pride to all. In other terms, Jordan at the moment enjoys the following: Improvement in balance of trade figures; a substantial rise in gold and currency reserves; high percentage of liquidity and a good amount of deposits in commercial banks. This assessment pinpoints the fact that, contrary to previous pessimistic expectations, measures taken to streamline the economy are now bearing fruit. In this regard, the authorities certainly deserve a pat on the back.

Situations which prevail in most developing nations have not spared Jordan. Paradoxically, people are often vigorous in criticizing the government for lack of amenities. But when taxes are raised to generate revenue, they protest. Considering macroeconomic realities, the prime minister's explanation on recent upgrading of travel taxes, halt of overtime payments and increase in work permit fees for malds, should not be regarded as negative in concept. After all, where do we expect the government to find adequate funds to execute projects on hospitals, roads, water and energy resources?

Much as we welcome the prime minister's views on the Kingdom's healthy stand, we must sound a note of caution. This is not the time to sink into self-conceit and complacency. A number of sensitive issues like unemployment, which has adversely affected the professional sector, are still with us. Moreover, Jordan's source of aid from the Gulf countries is becoming only a trickle. This should teach us the lesson of resolving to rely on our own resources through sacrifice and patriotism.

Mr Zaid Rifai, in accepting to grant the interview, despite a saturated daily routine, has indeed 'carried the government to the people'. It is our fervent hope that other officials will emulate the prime minister's example very often.

Painful realization

THOSE WHO read the interview conducted with the Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard (published on page 15 of this issue) must be astonished at the American-born Jew's justifications for his ill-fated role. In the first place, Pollard finds no contradiction in being both a good American and a good Zionist, even if this meant violating US laws and pilfering top secrets to the Israelis. Although he admits breaking the law, he finds it difficult to understand why other people — especially other good Americans — refuse to adopt his logic of two nations, one interest.

And if that is not peculiar about Mr Pollard's case, then his allegations that he did not do it for money ought to convince us that the man is attempting to make a hero of himself before American and Israeli public.

The Pollard affair has caused severe damage to American-Israeli relations, or so we would like to believe. If the immediate repercussions of this ignoble case does not appear now, then we think it is still evolving. It is not uncommon that even top US officials thought the life-sentence passed on Pollard was mild; others called for the death sentence. What it all boils down to is what many Israelis and Americans are coming to grips with: Israel's security paranoia and its obsession with its own superiority is self-destructive. One must bear in mind while studying the Pollard affair that, the man was working for America's most closely allied, trusted friend and security partner.

The full dimensions of the damage Pollard had incurred on the US security apparatus are yet to be discovered. But we leave that to others to analyse and ponder upon. What interests us here is to speculate on the future of Israeli-American relations. The American people and their government need to face new realities in the ensuing months and re-adjust their priorities in the region. If they are to accept Pollard's justifications that spying for Israel is what good Americans should be doing, then one should not look with optimism at the future of America's own will as a great superpower.

Israel's friends in the United States are numerous, they are entrenched in influential centres of power in both political and economic arenas. If the morality of Pollard is to be contended and excused on grounds of mutual strategic and security basis, then we should not be shocked when more Pollards are uncovered.

Can Reagan rediscover untarnished image?

By Dana Adams Schmidt
Star Washington Correspondent

IT SEEMED clear after President Reagan's speech to the nation that 'he's done it again'. So general was the approbation among Democrats as well as Republicans that it brought to the mind the thought that one of the strengths of the American political system is that the leaders of the two rival major political parties don't really hate each other; both sides are dedicated to making the system work.

What the President offered in his speech was his willingness, not angrily, or sadly — but cheerfully to accept responsibility for what went wrong in his Administration's



View from
the US

dealing with Iran, and his determination to turn over a new leaf and try to do better. That means that he will try to be more of a 'hands on' executive, to follow up on the details of the execution of his directives instead of merely handing out general principles to subordinates and then turning away.

Pretty corny, as we Americans would put it. But it goes over with the American public. First reactions from overseas, such as that of Dennis Healey, British Labour leader, suggested that some Europeans are also impressed. Healey especially liked the President's quick endorsement of Gorbachev's new missile disarmament proposal.

And then there was Dr Michael Freedman of New York City who observed that age, is not really President Reagan's problem. At 78, he said, the President could be just as good as he was at 55. He might be a little slower in his memory process, but overall intelligence, thanks to experience, was likely to be superior.

Time Magazine emblazoned across the cover of its current issue the words: "Can he recover?" In other words, is a man of his age really able to change his working habits? Can the damage done really be repaired? Can the Administration's credibility

really be restored? No one can answer these questions with assurance now.

The Russians, agreeable at the moment, may change their tune a few months hence. At the moment, it suits them to seem to be going for a foreign policy achievement, as it suits President Reagan to seem to be striking out boldly for an important domestic achievement. But that could change.

And there are immensely difficult domestic problems which are closely identified with the president's former Chief of Staff, Donald Regan Jr. The deficit for 1981, identified with the Reaganesque notion of 'taxes, taxes and still balance budget', the foreign trade deficit.

It seems likely that Howard H. Baker, a practical man known for his skill at bringing opposing parties together, will clear the weird aspects of Reaganism. If he succeeds, in the opinion of James Baker, the New York Times columnist, Howard Baker might certainly be considered a choice to represent the Republicans in the next presidential election. So Reagan could be grooming his successor.

Unfortunately, the Iran-Contra affair was a major failure, and it has caused deep wounds, the healing of which is problematical.

Nancy Reagan has shown her influence behind the scenes. It was she, the White House insiders say, who sealed Donald Regan's fate. Also, she is the one who is influencing Ronald Reagan's mind in the press of their connubial quarters. Not everyone likes that. Nor is it likely to change.

The President's reputation as a 'talker' is sullied, no matter what happens the next two years. His credibility has been damaged in the moderate Arab world. He cannot possibly be as strong and effective a president in the last two years of his presidency as he was in the preceding six.

A.M. Rosenthal the managing editor of the Times suggests that it is not unreasonable to believe that present or future successes on top of the failure that led to the Tower report (Senator R. John Tower, Texas), could lead Ronald Reagan to a second term. And aside before the end of his term, because while Tower and his fellow, communications Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and former National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, allocate plenty of blame to the president's former chief of staff, Regan, and his former National Security Adviser Robert C. McFarlane, and his former aide, the main fault belongs to Reagan.

'The Hidden Shame'

To the Editor:

IN RESPONSE to your recent article on the 'Handicapped', I would like to submit the following:

The moonlight highlighted the youthful fixed smiles of the painted faces. It lent a glow to the drab and faded finery of a time long ago. Arranged in tiers side by side, the books, were the mute companions of middle aged women, friends from their youth.

Time passes her by as she, accompanied by her friends, sits and stares at the ahead. Her animal utterances fall upon their deaf ears. The deaf ears and painted faces of hundreds of dolls brighten the grey walls of her apartment which define the boundaries of her existence these last two decades.

Her elderly mother cares for this severely retarded woman who is also a dwarfism. Hidden from the world, by shame, her family would welcome her dimming light, while her physical needs are grudgingly attended to, the emotional attitude lacks compassion and verges on inhuman treatment. This shell of a person was originally referred to as 'That'.

Obviously, the long-term care has exacted its toll, which is understandable. However, what cannot be excused is the inhuman and dehumanizing attitude evidenced towards this handicapped individual.

I feel that all too often, such people are considered as shameful to the families and are treated accordingly. How many others are looked away? Through the eyes of friendly relatives, who care from duty not love. The cases I have seen and about are a shame to be hidden away and forgotten about. What can be done?

Scapegoats

Memorandum

By Osama El-Sherif



THE FORMER chairman of the Arab Monetary Fund was sentenced to 78 years in prison and ordered to return the \$80 million he embezzled from the fund's allocations. Two things were missing in the trial; the accused and the money in question. The former chairman and a number of his associates were living it easy in Europe, armed with European citizenships and protected by the millions of dollars they smartly diverted to their personal accounts before making a run for it.

Some may sympathize with the court ruling and denounce off-hand the apparently guilty party. Others, whom I think will use their wits, will glance uninterestingly at the details of this news item and then move onto another topic: sports or puzzles. To denounce the culprits will be adding insult to injury. The man and his gang of economists and profiteering businessmen have made it through; a perfect pull job.

But let us attempt to study the circumstances which may have shrouded this immoral case. First, what is the Arab Monetary Fund? Most of us have never heard of it. Second, let us face it. If the former chairman of the AMF did not jump at the opportunity of cleverly diverting the Arab millions into his Swiss bank account, others would have done so. Third, the \$80 million is a drop in an ocean of oil money that is badly invested in American and European ven-

tures — that money is legally lost while this particular sum was illegally taken away from the Arabs — the point being that if the money remained in the coffers of the AMF, it would have been wasted through mismanagement anyway.

Fourth, it looks silly on our side to bad-mouth a few clever sinners who used their insight, when bigger and more enterprising fish, in a sea of money, pass the system of checks and balances we claim to have unscrutinized. The gist of this argument is, why put on trial this mischievous lot when others are let free. Naturally the amounts of money involved in other invisible transactions, beyond my personal calculator's mathematical dexterities.

If we are looking for scapegoats, then everyone may turn on his bands of articulate denunciations in the name of Islam and Arabism. But what can we actually say? Can we say the money that was lost would have been used to build factories, reclaim 'dead' land, feed hungry mouths, heal sick children or arm poor rebels? Should we lament the undone projects and the ready-to-construct technological centres?

The evil ones might even say: so what, it wasn't our money to begin with. But those

people are truly evil-minded to even think in such a way.

The fact of the matter is we need to open our eyes fully — or close them forever. If we dare speak of moralities and ethics, then we must not hide behind fancy words and prostituted slogans. If we really care, honestly care about the wealth of the Arabs which is going down the drain here and there, then putting on trial a group of sleazy embezzlers is not what we should be doing. The real culprits remain, nameless and faceless and the money that we should be claiming needs ages to be accounted for.

In retrospect, one must condemn the AMF extortionists. But only if we are to open all files and build up a nationally-motivated case against all those who give themselves the right to squander Arab money, gamble with our future and then live happily ever after while the masses wonder what hit them.

A story we tell our children when they begin to read and write: 'Two boys were watching a man slaughtering birds on a cold day. One boy said: "Oh poor man, he must feel really bad, look there are tears coming from his eyes." The other boy replied: "Don't look at his eyes, but at the doing of his hands." Is there a moral?

Could a business tycoon run US ?

By James M. Dorsey
Special to The Star

WASHINGTON — His autobiography topped the best-seller lists month after month. His columns can be read in 350 newspapers and his face appears on television nearly as often as the network news anchor. From all over the United States come gifts and memorabilia from his unofficial fan club. And there are the letters: thousands from Taiwan to Tulsa, as many as 500 a day.

Whether he is selling cars or raising money for some worthy goal, Lee Iacocca knows personality, public service and phenomenal success in an appealing blend. An age of swiftness disposable heroes, Iacocca's appeal has been stunning and enduring. Former House of Representatives Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill spoke of him as one of the more viable Democratic Party candidates for next year's presidential election.

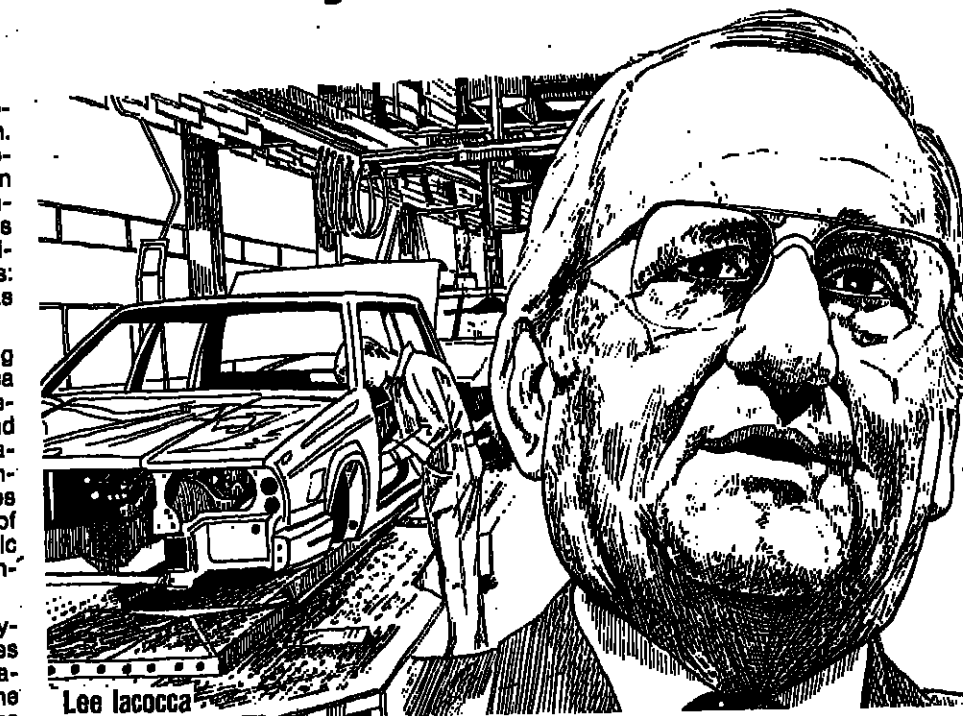
Last summer, a small cadre of highly-experienced Democratic political operatives organized an "outreach effort" to push Iacocca's candidacy. Earlier this month the group decided to disband after Iacocca signed a new four-year contract as chairman of the Chrysler auto company. Said spokesman Morgan Winograd, former chairman of the Michigan Democratic Party, Iacocca "won't be available until 1992."

Although a registered Republican, Iacocca's economic prescriptions are very much in line with Democratic thinking. His supporters hoped Iacocca would do for government what his business instincts have done for Chrysler. He would reorder priorities by introducing deep cuts in defence spending, tough US trade policies and an active partnership between government and private enterprise.

Iacocca, 62, has denied repeatedly having any political ambitions. "I believe that if I wanted to be president I could be president," he said. "But I'm not running for anything but my life. Politically, I was never trained for that. I would be a lousy president. It's not having a short fuse, I don't have that good spirit of talking things to death and compromising."

But Iacocca bears some responsibility for the rumour mill predicting his possible candidacy.

Discussing the \$1.2 billion federal loan he secured from the Carter administration in his autobiography, "We were lucky that we appealed to a Democratic administration that put people ahead of ideology. Democrats usually do. They deal with people, they deal with people, they deal with people. Republicans deal with trickle-down theories of investment."



Lee Iacocca

Moreover, Iacocca's Washington lobby office hired a former Washington Post editorial writer to write the Chrysler chairman's speeches and articles.

The son of Italian immigrants, Iacocca's career is very much a rags-to-riches American success story. Beginning as a car salesman in Pennsylvania, he worked his way into the boardrooms of Detroit's auto industry. In 1970, under Henry Ford II, he became president of America's number two automaker.

In his autobiography, Iacocca proudly extols his business acumen — his development of such best-selling cars as the Mustang and the Mark, the best he gave to the Mercury, and his efforts to improve relations with individual Ford dealers across the country.

A closer look, however, shows a mixed record. While the Mustang made a fortune, his Pinto, a car barely mentioned in his autobiography, hardly earned a penny. Worse, the car was unsafe. Quality was a frequent problem. In 1987, one third of all Fords had to be recalled because of mechanical problems. In addition, car sales began to slump as Americans took a greater interest in imported models.

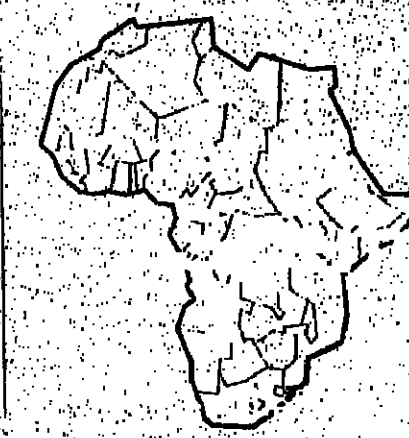
Iacocca's part in one of America's most celebrated boardroom battles first pushed him into the frontline of publicity. On 13 July, 1978, at the pinnacle of his power, Iacocca was unceremoniously fired by Ford. His account of the battle reads like a thriller: backstabbing, betrayals in the halls

of power, allegations of financial and sexual misdeeds, an intricate labyrinth of corporate corruption — and the uphill battle of "Poor Little Lee" against the giant Henry Ford II.

A year after his dismissal, Iacocca accepted the challenge to revitalize Chrysler as it headed toward annual losses of more than \$3 billion. He vigorously lobbied Congress and the White House for a federally-secured loan and mobilized unions and banks behind his campaign. Ultimately, he paid back the notes seven years before they were due and helped Chrysler show a profit last year of more than \$2 billion.

His success story made Iacocca a name mentioned for the 1988 presidency despite his declared lack of interest — but also turned much of official Washington against him. "Here is a guy whose company is now existing because of help from the federal government," said a Republican who helped in the bail-out of Chrysler. "It seems rather opportunistic to me."

Last year, Iacocca was fired by Interior Secretary Donald Hodel as head of a federal advisory commission on the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the former reception centre in New York for immigrants arriving from Europe. Hodel said Iacocca had prevented potential conflicts of interest between Iacocca's dual role as chairman of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission and of a private foundation that had raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the restoration of the statue.



Liberia — stepping backwards

WHEN AMID charges of corruption, Master-Sergeant Samuel Doe led a group of soldiers in an army uprising which resulted in the brutal killing of the late President Tolbert, other heads of state in Africa were shocked.

In the first place, the late leader was at that time, the chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Moreover, since its founding, Liberia, never having been subjected to colonial rule, has a remarkable foreign policy, in that it had been spared the usual change in administrations by its military.

For decades, many had believed that, although America did not participate in the 'sharing of Africa' among European countries in the 19th century, Liberia could be regarded as a US 'colony' on the western coast of Africa. And a recent decision taken by President Doe to invite a group of American economists and financial experts to take over and reshape his country's sagging economy, has been received with misgivings.

This unprecedented move by the Liberian leader is an ample proof of how the euphoria which greeted his assumption of power have evaporated. It could also be regarded as an affront to the country's intellectuals and might lead to isolationists policies being taken against the nation.

Liberia, with its capital at Monrovia (named after former US President James Monroe) has its early history dating back to 1822, when it was founded as a colony for freed black slaves from the US repatriated to Africa under the auspices of the American Colonization Society. The country was ruled by governors until 1847 when the Republic of Liberia was proclaimed with a US-type of constitution. The constitution made allowance for a multi-party state, but rather curiously, Liberia, since 1878 until the coup d'etat in 1980, had been ruled by one party — the True Whig Party — with power mainly in the hands of Americo-Liberians.

Liberia's independence in 1947, did little to 'wake up' the rest of black Africa or accelerate the march forward to sovereignty. The country had all along maintained a passive and defensive stance. This, however, was dramatically changed after World War II, when its policy became more pragmatic and African unity awareness started to grow.

Playing a decisive role in this was the late President William Tubman. He is regarded as one of the founding fathers of the OAU. To be precise, the OAU charter, incorporates many of the 'ideas and guiding principles' that he formulated in the charter of the Monrovia group in 1961.

President Doe, if only he could seriously reassess his country's economy and involve all Liberian economists in a pragmatic national reconstruction programme, could certainly put his country on a sound footing. The economy based on rubber production and iron-ore, if well managed, could serve as catalysts to revamp the ailing financial crisis.

The proposed Arab summit

Al-Raya newspaper of Qatar renews the call for holding the long-delayed Arab summit conference, saying that the summit itself is not in demand but the importance of such a meeting stems from the urgent need to transfer the Arab World from a state of divisions and disintegration into one governed by solidarity and reconciliation. It expresses optimism that the summit will be held in the near future, after Saudi Arabia, which is due to host the conference, declared through King Fahd that it will request the holding of the meeting at the appropriate date.

"The restoration of solidarity among Arab countries is quite possible once the will to do so becomes available to Arab leaders. It needs dropping minor contradictions in the interest of common Arab action and the confrontation of the Zionist challenge," writes the Qatari daily.

A Qatari weekly magazine, Al-Ahd, says the prospect of holding a summit is brighter now than before in light of the increasing dangers surrounding the Arab World. It cites the recent Saudi-Algerian summit meeting in Algeria and the relative success of the Fifth Islamic summit conference in Kuwait as positive signs indicating progress toward the holding of the Arab summit conference.

The Qatari weekly attaches great importance to King Fahd's talks with Algerian President Cheddi Benjedid, saying that the two leaders could exert a successful effort in healing inter-Arab rifts and overcoming obstacles impeding a summit. It concludes by asserting that the Arab region is now passing through a crucial turning point involving major future changes that need a collective Arab decision to cope with.

The international conference

Al-Khaleej Al-Yom, another Qatari newspaper, stresses the need for a unified Arab approach towards the proposed international conference on the Middle East. It says the Arabs should work together, and each with a specific role, to bring the idea of the conference into being.

It goes on to say that the proposed conference is the sole option available at present to get the Arab issue out of oblivion, and in campaigning for the conference, all past and present differences should disappear and no new one must emerge.

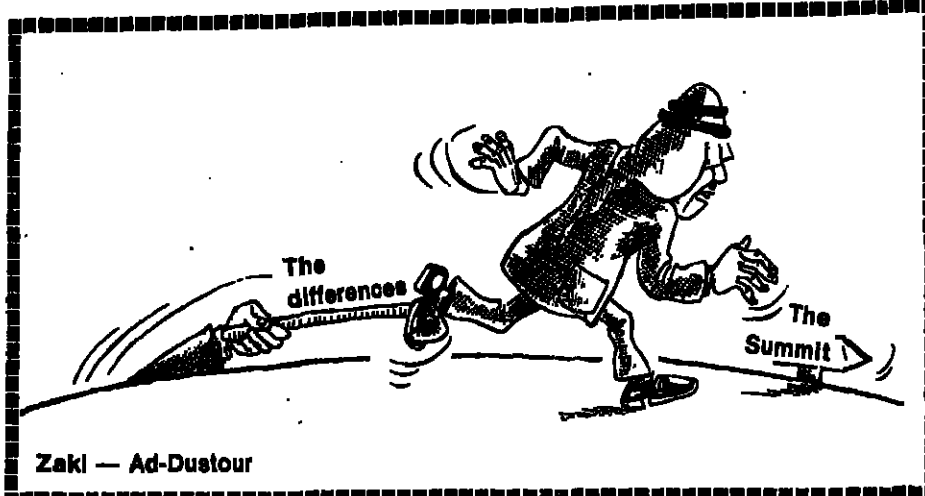
"Doing that requires constructive dialogue and consultation, with no room being made available for unilateral decisions on this crucial matter. In the meantime, the Arabs should move more swiftly than Israel and the United States to utilize the European Community's endorsement of the international conference," Al-Khaleej Al-Yom asserts.

The Jonathan Pollard spy case

Al-Ittihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi says the row between the United States and Israel over the Jonathan Pollard spy scandal will not go beyond empty statements that have any effect on the huge US military and economic assistance to Israel. It adds that the Zionists are in control of the situation in Washington and need no apology to prompt the Americans to forgive them for the damage they had caused to US interests by obtaining illegally hundreds of secret US military documents.

The Qatari English-language newspaper The Gulf Times, writes that if Israel press reports about curbs being imposed by American Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger on military co-operation with Israel are true, then the Americans have indeed learned a bitter lesson. It says Israel, the spoiled child of the United States, whose military and economic needs have always been promptly met, has bitten the hand that has been nurturing him.

The paper remarks that America has neither confirmed nor denied the Israeli press reports about the curbs on military co-operation. This could mean that the Israelis deliberately published these reports to prepare themselves for any action that Washington may take over the spy affair. The paper concludes by urging the American public to react to the Israeli behaviour in a way that puts US national interests above any



Zaki - Ad-Dustour

The Pakistani atomic bomb

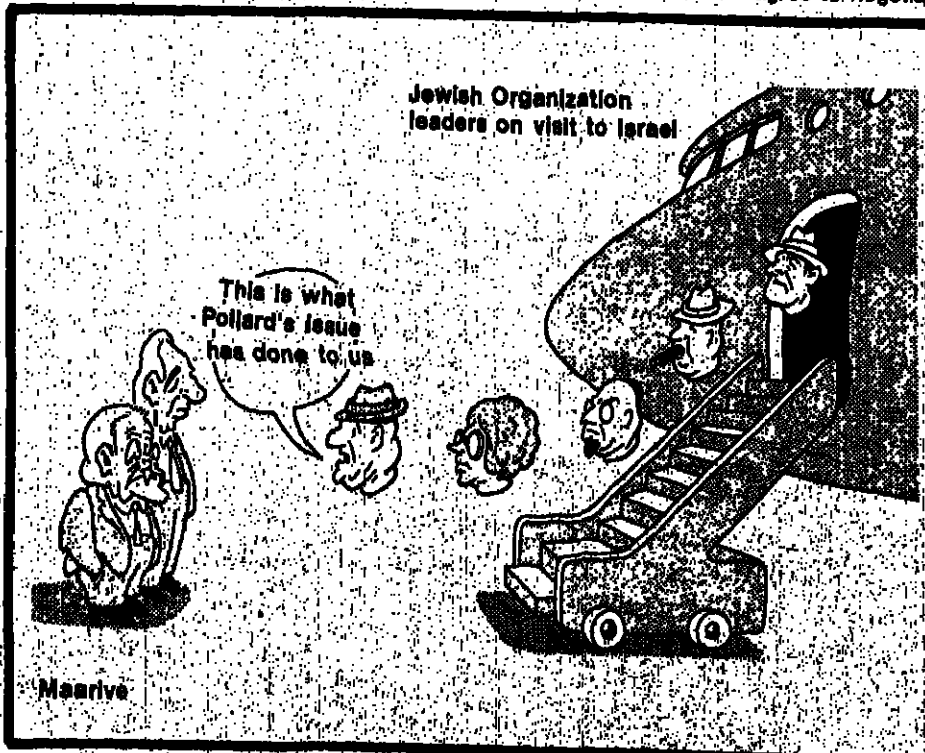
Al-Bayan newspaper of Dubai attacks calls being made in Washington to use US military and economic aid to Pakistan to prevent that Muslim country from producing a nuclear bomb. It asks why this principle has never been considered with regard to Israel which is said to have manufactured hundreds of nuclear weapons. "Israel is the prime beneficiary of the US foreign assistance when the entire world knows that the Jewish state has developed an enormous nuclear potential," writes Al-Bayan.

It also charges that the US attitude towards the alleged Pakistani atomic bomb is a sign of animosity and fanaticism against the Islamic World. It is also an attempt to hinder technological progress in the Muslim World as part of the strategic co-operation treaty between the United States and Israel.

Al-Ittihad newspaper writes that if Pakistan has indeed acquired the atomic bomb, it did so by relying on its own potentials, and not as a result of help from any foreign power. The superpowers, the paper adds, never had the intention of supplying a Muslim country with the nuclear know-how because the Arab and Muslim world is a primary target of their strategies.

Ad-Dustour of Jordan writes that Thursday's resistance operation in South Lebanon in which Israel admitted the killing of an army officer and the wounding of three soldiers is of a special importance because it coincided with a fresh condemnation of Israeli violations of human rights in South Lebanon by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The operation, the paper remarks, took place a day after the United States attempted to block the commission's condemnation of a resolution which nevertheless was passed by an overwhelming majority.

The paper calls on the Western media to draw a distinctive line between legitimate acts of resistance of people under occupation and terrorism such as the one practised by Israel under false allegation.



Mearvi

Al-Ra'i newspaper also hails, the operation in South Lebanon as a courageous and could serve as a guide to all Lebanese factions. The operation, Al-Ra'i adds, represents a call to the Lebanese people to direct all their guns against the Israeli aggressors.

Koterit Rashit comments on Minister of Energy Moshe Shahil's decision not to renew the concession granted to The Jerusalem Electricity Company and that the Israeli Electricity Company will take over this Arab company. The paper says that the Jerusalem Electricity Company has been plagued by so many problems mainly those of accumulated debts which resulted from losses in power prices. The Arab company tried all means to settle its problems through the proper legal channels but all the efforts failed miserably and the debts grew heavier.

This difficult situation, and the government's refusal to rescue it proves the truth in an old Israeli plan to take over the company. The paper goes on by saying that the Israeli authorities have intentionally mounted numerous obstacles to prevent the company from functioning properly. The problem according to the paper, is not that of debts but an Israeli plot to liquidate and control the company and then convert it into an Israeli one.

Al-Sha'ab Arabic newspaper comments on the American role in the Middle East by saying that President Reagan's government, which is still suffering from the developments of Iranagate scandal, is unable to take any step that can boost the peace march led by Egypt and backed by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The paper continues that Washington insists on saying that the ball is now in the Arab court though it was previously reluctant to take any step to revive the peace efforts unless the Arabs agree to negotiate

directly with Israel. This previous attitude adopted by Washington has urged the Arab leaders to present new proposals and initiatives especially the idea of holding direct talks with Israel under an international umbrella. Some American officials, the paper points out, expect further concessions from the Arab side. These concessions may in the future create a solid ground for any initiative Washington may present. The paper concludes by asking: What does America exactly want at this very sensitive stage?

Kol Haer comments that the big force created by the Pollard issue will certainly end in Israel's favour, not because the Americans are excessively kindhearted or forgetful, but because the nature of the US-Israeli relations obliges the American administration to cover up the issue and, in the best case, obtain a promise from Israel that similar practices will not be repeated in the future.

The paper adds that the exchange of sharp arguments or Israeli investigation committees are just spices or appetizers, which help the stomach of the US policy to digest the issue. It is also a part of the political manoeuvres of Israeli parties which strive to get others involved in the game which is becoming well known by everybody. This is the 'chairs' game which, despite all that have been said about Israeli democracy, is a very valuable goal which warrants sacrificing attitudes and individuals, concludes the paper.

Hadasah quotes the Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as saying that he thinks that the National Unity Government will be dissolved this year and the 12th Knesset elections held between September and October. Apparently, the paper comments, the MKR which is headed by Shamir, will not be able to survive because of the deep and numerous differences between the Labour and Likud parties. These differences are not confined only to the disagreement over the international peace conference, but include many other subjects like the national budget, Jewish settlement, the Israeli foreign policy. These differences, the paper says, can never be settled unless the government, which is made up of two major parties, is dismantled.

Al-Hamishmar also comments on the Pollard scandal and says that the American pressurés and the Jewish public opinion were not behind the ministerial council's decision to form an investigation committee to dig into the issue. However, the paper points out, the head of the foreign and security affairs committee, Abba Eban, played a vital role when he announced that he will not abandon his responsibility vis-a-vis the current political crisis.

The paper continues that Abba Eban, who is a prominent and a renowned diplomat, realizes very well the consequences which could emerge out of the issue and their effects on the Israeli-American relations or on the relations between Israel and the Jews in America. Disclosing the whole truth and specifying the officials is the only way to redress the situation even though it will fall to restore confidence in Israel.

The best solution is the instituting of an official probe committee. And as a matter of fact, the paper goes on, a number of American officials have so far tendered their resignations for being involved in the Iranagate scandal when the Tower Committee started its investigations. This Committee, the paper points out, is empowered to interrogate any person at any level, and they are bound to answer any questions posed by the committee. The outcomes of these investigations is likely going to create a big political storm in Israel, concludes the paper.

Al Quds Arabic paper says that the Arab citizens in the occupied territories have to pay all kinds of taxes levied by the Israeli authorities. These taxes, the paper points out, include value added taxes, property purchase taxes, capital exchange, travel and income taxes. In addition to these levied indirectly from the people who buy of self any kind of commodity.

International laws and conventions have specified the nature of treatment applied to the people under occupation. An example is the Geneva convention of 1949 which stipulated that new taxes should not be levied on occupied territories. Thus, the paper adds, these international laws have been applied in the Jordanian law which was applied on the West Bank before 1987, and should continue to be the only law which must be applied there. This means that most of the taxes the Israelis levy on the Arab inhabitants contravene international laws and conventions, concludes the paper.

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

Bids in for Aqaba back road

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

AMMAN — Bids from nine of the twenty five companies prequalified for work on the Aqaba Back road project were opened on 11 March. Work on the project is divided into

two sections. Section A entails construction of a grade-separated interchange, 15 kilometres of main road connecting Wadi Yutum to the spur intersection, six kilometres of spur to the coastal highway and six bridges. Section B calls for building of 11 kilometres of main road, a flood protection channel and an interchange. The new road will enable heavy traffic to by-pass the centre of Aqaba on its way to and from the port. The Jeddah-based Saudi Fund for Development is providing SR 40 million for the project.

tres of main road, a flood protection channel and an interchange. The new road will enable heavy traffic to by-pass the centre of Aqaba on its way to and from the port. The Jeddah-based Saudi Fund for Development is providing SR 40 million for the project.

Bids were as follows
Company

1. Saangyong (Korea)
2. The Mohammad Biniaden Organization (Kuwait)
3. General Equipment Company with The Technical Contracting and Engineering Co. (Jordan)
4. National Engineering and Contracting Co. (Jordan)
5. Al Maser Jordanian Contracting Co. with Joannou and Paraskevaldes of Cyprus
6. Ret-Ser Engineering Agency (Taiwan) with Triple Construction Co. (Jordan)
7. Al Mashrik Contracting Company (Saudi Arabia)
8. China State Construction Engineering Corporation (China)
9. Mount Kassoulou Company (Syria) with Hudhud Shand (Jordan)

Part A
JD 6,826,500

Part B
JD 4,575,708

JD 9,888,087 JD 7,250,881

JD 10,418,223 JD 7,957,186

JD 9,469,342 JD 5,942,827

JD 9,935,000 JD 7,340,000

JD 12,127,464 JD 9,090,075

JD 12,669,919 JD 10,866,663

JD 11,215,021 JD 6,971,915

JD 9,007,940 JD 6,138,411

Kanaan accuses Israel on company

AMMAN (AP) — Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan has accused Israel of crippling a Palestinian-owned electricity company in Jerusalem by unfairly limiting its prices.

"The Jordanian government offered to bail it out, but on condition the tariffs and the whole structure of the concession should be made viable," Mr Kanaan on Monday added, "they would not do that."

Mr Kanaan was formerly the

Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs.

Israel has annexed the Arab half of the Jerusalem but few nations accept the annexation as valid.

Israeli officials have threatened to shut down the East Jerusalem Electric Co. if it cannot pay its debts, which Mr Kanaan said exceeded its net worth.

"The Israelis succeeded in crippling the company," by "im-

posing a false cap on the selling of electricity," he said.

Mr Kanaan said the Israelis had failed to honour the company's concession, dating back to the days of British rule, which guaranteed the company a specified profit on its operations.

Much of the money is owed to the Israeli Electrical Co., from which it must buy power.

Israeli authorities have accused the company of poor management, and Mr Kanaan said that Jordan had also insisted on improved management as a condition for resuming the company.

But, he said, Jordan's Ministry of Occupied Territories had copies of Israeli accountants' reports that laid the primary blame for the company's problems on the prices at which it had to buy and sell power.

EEC assists the JIEC

AMMAN — The European Community has given the go-ahead for a technical assistance project designed to provide operational and planning support to the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC). The project is financed from an ECU 350,000 grant (JD 122,000) provided under the Second Phase II Protocol between Jordan and the European Community.

Dr Fayed Sohelmat, General Manager of JIEC, recently signed a contract with the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), a joint government-agency responsible for promoting industrial development in Jordan and abroad. JIEC owns and manages fully equipped and equipped industrial estates in Jordan, and its main estate is at Sahab to the south east of Amman. IDA will concentrate on a number of specific areas, namely management, accounting and cost recovery, rent analysis, marketing of industrial estates, and will also provide training and management programmes in Jordan for 16 JIEC staff.

The European Investment Bank has also made a number of loans towards industrial development in the Kingdom: two of them worth ECU 8 million (nearly

JD 3 million) were provided to JIEC for the setting up of the Sahab industrial estate, and in June 1986 a third loan for ECU 8.5 million (JD 2.4 million) was agreed to cover further expansion work at the Sahab estate.

Power study completed

- Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) in co-operation with a team from the US's Gilbert Commonwealth has recently completed a comprehensive study of electric power capacity. The study, the first of its kind in Jordan, included a number of recommendations to minimize the production cost of the electric power and to increase the efficiency and capacity of the electric power system in the Kingdom.

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SAAB S.F. 340 wins orders

AMMAN (Star) — Three French companies have decided to purchase SAAB S.F. 340 planes which combine highly advanced technology and turbine fans. Altogether nineteen companies have already opted for the 30-40 seater planes. The SAAB S.F. 340 has now been carrying passengers for three years and has established a reputation for reliability and efficiency. The plane's reputation for technical quality and strength has attracted a growing number of passengers to the purchasing airlines.

Overall, more than 305 million passengers have now travelled on board SAAB planes, covering a distance estimated at more than 1,500 trips around the world.

Jordan's semi-arid lands receive special attention

By Pam Dougherty
Special to The Star

DRIP IRRIGATION in the Jordan Valley, sprinkler irrigated wheat in the southern arid lands — they are just two of the approaches to boosting food production that have been tried in Jordan in the past few years in an attempt to reduce Jordan's growing food import bill.

But a unique project now underway at Muwaqar, 80 kilometres south east of Amman, may, in the long run, prove to be the most important approach of all.

The project's name, "Agricultural Production in the Semi-Arid Zones and Areas Suffering from Desertification" is a little unwieldy, its aims are precise — to assess the sustainable productive potential of the semi-arid lands that make up 35 per cent of Jordan's total area.

The project was established 18 months ago on 200 hectares of land provided by the government. Eighteen faculty members and five post-graduate students from the University of Jordan Faculty of Agriculture are working on the project which has received JD

700,000 funding from the European Economic Commission (EEC) under its "Fight against Hunger" programme.

Dr Awni Taimieh of Jordan University, who is technical director of the project, says it is the first in the Middle East to take a comprehensive approach to the study of the agricultural possibilities of areas which, with an average annual rainfall of only 150 mm, have generally been left out of agricultural development programmes.

The aim of the project team now is to develop practical and inexpensive package of measures, sustainable in even the lowest rainfall years, which will boost production while also improving the soil quality and halting the desertification process.

The land chosen for the project is typical of Jordan's semi-arid regions and is daunting. The average rainfall is 150 mm per year but a study of the rainfall patterns of the past 45 years shows that it can range from a record high of 790 mm, recorded in 1948, to absolutely nothing in severe drought years.

Years of overgrazing have left the ground with almost no plant cover and the occasional good year of rain has probably worsened the situation by encouraging farmers to plant a wheat crop as in succeeding dry years the ploughed land is all the more susceptible to erosion.

The entire project area has now been fenced off to prevent any grazing and allow the plant cover to regenerate. Then, within the overall area, a range of experiments is underway which include testing for the best means of conserving run-off and improving water use efficiency, improvement of soil fertility and maintenance of soil productivity, the increase of the natural vegetation through the improvement of local species and the introduction of new ones and testing for possible field crops.

The first phase of the project included a detailed soil study which has now produced a soil and land-use map and a plant study to identify the flora in the project and surrounding areas, the selection of indigenous plants based on their performance in the natural habitat and the study of the survival mechanisms and drought tolerance of these species.

In the second phase the project team have moved on to a number of sub-projects.

The project site is now criss-crossed by shallow ditches ploughed on the land's contour lines as a measure to prevent wind and water erosion.

Some areas have been fenced off as test plots to see how well the land will regenerate when left totally undisturbed. Others are being planted with atrypex and other fodder shrubs.

Soil fertility improvement trials are underway using various quantities of manure, sewage sludge and chemical fertilizers to test which is the most suitable type and quantity to restore soil fertility and improve its water holding capacity.

Other trials are being done on wheat crops using different applications of nitrogen fertilizer, yet others are testing the level of erosion caused by the sprinkler watering of forage crops.

And the use of sprinklers is a reminder of the vital work being done in water harvesting.

Dr Deeb Owais, Assistant Professor of Soils and Irrigation at Jordan University, who is directing the water harvesting and usage

activities, explains that, unlike the new grain growing projects underway in southern and eastern Jordan, this project depends entirely on rainfall and surface run-off with no use of underground supplies contemplated.

A first step was the building of three earth dams to hold some of the water that flows across the land after rain. The three have a total capacity of 80,000 or 12-15,000 cm in the first dam, 30,000 cm in the second and 15,000 cm in the third.

Dr Owais says that 80,000 cm is the maximum quantity that the project site can conserve but after the most recent storm in the area which produced 20mm of rain, some one million cm of water passed over the spillway between the first and second dams and this could be utilized on other land in the area.

The dams are not only effective they were also very cheap — keeping with the project aim of developing affordable techniques. Dr Owais points out that where it would cost JD 30,000 to bring 80,000 cm of water to the site by pipes, the dams cost only JD 2,000 each.

The question now under study is "what is the best strategy for using the water?" Dr Owais says the factors which must be considered are the long term storage capacity of the dam itself, the rainfall patterns of the area and, on the agricultural side, which particular crops, fodder crops and land regeneration activity would put the water to its best use.

The other aspect of water harvesting is the local channelling of surface run off on the project site itself. A series of plots, following the slope of the land, have been established, some with a grass covering, others with a covering of paraffin wax, the third type without covering, and the run-off of channelled to one corner of the plot. The amount of water collected is then measured to establish the optimum plot size and surface cover. This technique is particularly well suited to the growing and each of the plots has been planted with a mandarin tree.

The area under study has, of course, traditionally been predominantly used for grazing and the potential for livestock production is an important aspect of the project. The land regeneration and fodder crop tests are the first stage but actual trials will have to wait until the available grazing has improved.

Dr Butros Hattar of Jordan University, who is responsible for the fertility testing and trials at the project, says the trials will be to assess not simply how many animals can graze a given area but the length of the grazing period and the appropriate times of year and of the growing cycle of the plants. He says even a very short grazing period can be harmful, for example, animals are allowed to graze when the plants are setting seed as this can destroy the possibility of new growth.

Dr Taimieh believes that at least three to five more years are needed before proper experimentation at the project site can be completed. The team then hopes to have developed a package of practical and affordable measures which could be used throughout Jordan's semi-arid areas. He estimates that an individual property would need to be at least 200 dunams or larger areas could be developed on some co-operative basis.

By Ahmed Shaker

The Ministry of Public Works has issued a list of directives for the classification of contractors, with regard to the capital, the machinery and equipment and the value of the project for which they may apply.

A Danish Industrial, agricultural and commercial delegation representing a group of public and private companies and corporations will arrive in Amman next month on a one week visit aimed at encouraging trade exchange between Jordan and Denmark.

The Natural Resources Authority has received offers from a number of companies for oil exploration in the Kingdom.

The Kingdom will observe a complete eclipse of the sun next Sunday afternoon.

Mr Badri Al Mulqi, Director of the Department of Lands and Survey, is to be appointed as a government consultant for land affairs.

A team of Japanese experts has completed a detailed study on the regional planning for the cities of Karak and Tafila. The study which deals with the land utilization, transport prospects, agriculture, and industry, will be forwarded to government officials for endorsement during a public conference.

Mr Mohammad Al Saqqaf, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade will head a Jordanian delegation to Jakarta to attend the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Indonesian committee on 24 March.

Dr Ziad Fariz, General Secretary of the Ministry of Planning will go to Damascus next week representing The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait in order to evaluate the projects which the fund finances in Syria.

Minister of Planning Dr Taher Kanaan is to fly to Baghdad on 4 April to attend the meetings of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development, and will then go to Morocco to take part in the meetings of the Arab and foreign finance funds.

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1) The United Nations Relief & Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in Jordan announces the following two vacancies provisionally located at Supply & Transport Department, UM El Heran, Amman:

A) Supply and Movement Officer

Post grade 14 with a basic monthly salary of JD. 322,800 increasing up to JD. 507,100 through yearly incremental steps plus JD. 8,750 as cost of living allowance, JD. 6,050 as interim social security supplement and a Dependency Allowance up to JD. 37 per month. Incumbent supervises all Warehousing, Distribution and Vehicle Control Operations in Jordan Field. Full secondary education with five years experience in warehousing and supply operations and management of a large fleet of vehicles, a driving license and good written and spoken Arabic and English are minimum qualifications. It is desirable if candidates have a university degree in Business Administration or related field.

B) Vehicle Control Officer

Post grade 12 with a basic monthly salary of JD. 284,800 increasing up to JD 414,900 through yearly incremental steps plus JD. 8- as cost of living allowance, JD. 6,800 as interim social security supplement and a Dependency Allowance up to JD. 37 per month. Incumbent supervises the day to day operations of a large transport fleet, including regular inspection, insurance follow-up, testing of drivers and budgeting and financial control. Full secondary education with five years experience in managing a large transport fleet, driving license, good written and spoken Arabic and English are minimum qualifications. It is desirable if candidates have a two-year Diploma in Business Administration.

2) Priority will be given to registered Palestinian refugees. Accuracy in filling applications is very important. Incomplete applications and applications lacking any part of the above requirements will not be considered.

3) Interested candidates are invited to submit their CV to Field Personnel Officer, UNRWA-Jordan, P.O. Box 484, Amman not later than 31 March 1987.

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The English Department at Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan announces the following vacancies for faculty members:

1. A senior faculty member in literature
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3. A native speaker of English with an M.A. in TEFL.

Openings are for positions commencing Sept. 1987. Please send inquiries and/or an updated CV not later than April 15, 1987 to: Academic Staff Affairs Division, Yarmouk University, Irbid - Jordan.

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2 M	6 3/8	3 15/16	8	4 1/4	5 1/2	4 1/4	9 15/16
3 M	6 3/8	3 15/16	8 1/16	4 3/16	5 7/16	4 3/16	9 13/16
6 M	6 3/8	4	8 1/8	4 1/16	5 7/16	4 1/16	9 3/4
9 M	6 3/8	4	8 1/4	4 1/16	5 7/16	4 1/16	9 3/4
12 M	6 7/16	4 1/16	8 3/8	4 1/16	5 7/16	4	9 11/16
2 Years	6 3/4	4 5/16	—	—	—	—	—
3 Years	7	4 11/16	—	—	—	—	—
4 Years	7 3/8	5 1/16	—	—	—	—	—
5 Years	7 1/2	5 5/16	—	—	—	—	—

Source: Finance and Credit Corporation

GOLD
IN JORDAN

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday 18 March 1987 were as follows:

18 ct. JD 3.400 per gramme
21 ct. JD 3.950 per gramme
24 ct. JD 4.700 per gramme
Ounces kilogramme (9999) JD 4,615.000
Ounces JD 148.000
Gold Sterling JD 33.000
(Central Bank)
Reshadi Pound JD 29.000
(Seven grammes)

Source: Youssef Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman.

EXCHANGE RATES

	buy	sell
US dollar	.340	.342
Sterling pound	.540	.550
German mark	.185	.186
French franc	.065	.066
Swiss franc	.215	.220
Dutch guilder	.1625	.165
Italian lire (1000)	.255	.265
Swedish krona	.050	.051
Saudi riyal	.0907	.0910
Kuwaiti dinar	1.230	1.225
UAE dirham	.0927	.0935
Egyptian pound	.1870	.1725
Syrian lira	.0131	.0133
Iraqi dinar	.285	.273
Omani riyal	.880	.890

Source: National Jordan Exchange Company

Venezuela
reaches debt
accord

CARACAS (Opecna) — Venezuela has reached a new accord with private creditor banks over its foreign debt which includes interest rate reduction and an extended repayment period.

The new agreement replaces Venezuela's previous accord to reorganize the bulk of its \$24.5 billion public debt.

Under the new restructuring agreement, Venezuela will amortize the debt with private creditors over a 14-year period, instead of the 12-year term set out in a 1986 accord.

Sources reported that the central bank here had begun to study the feasibility of trading shares of state-owned industries to creditors in exchange for cancelling its debt.

According to "venpre" the country's national news agency, under the new agreement, Venezuela will pay \$250 million toward debt servicing in 1987, instead of \$1.05 billion as set out in the earlier agreement.

In 1988, the government will allocate some \$400 million instead of the \$1.15 billion called for in the 1985 schedule, while the debt will be completely paid back by 1999 under the new arrangement, according to the report.

Shareholders make
bid for Jordan BankBy Mamdouh El Ghaly
Star Financial Market Analyst

A NUMBER of major deals worth JD 4 million were made this week involving 200,000 shares, or 20 per cent of the shares of the Jordan Bank. These deals which were made by a group of major shareholders of the bank in order to win more votes within the board of directors, constituted about 67 per cent of the total dealings.

The names of those investors, who made the deals through agents, were not revealed, and the deals were carried at prices higher than those fixed in the Amman Market.

The prices of most of other companies' shares have started to rise.

2,000,000 shares were handled at the market value of JD 6,540,000 divided among 2,900 contracts, an increase of 100 per cent compared to last week.

The daily handling average came to JD 1,310,000 with a deviation of 47 per cent or 8.4 per cent of total around this average, thus indicating instability at the market.

The shares of 63 companies were handled from which 32 companies gained including:

- 1- Dar Al Sha'b Press & Publishing Co. closing at JD .480 up from JD .420
- 2- Jordan Lime & Bricks Co. closing at JD .330 up from JD .270
- 3- Arab Investment Bank closing at JD 2.100 up from JD 1.850
- 4- Jordan French Insurance Co. closing at JD 4.500 up from JD 4.000
- 5- Arab International Hotels closing at JD .490 up from JD .450

19 companies lost including:

- 1- International Insurance Co. closing at JD .760 down from JD .890
- 2- Jordan Bank closing at JD 18.300 down from JD 20.350
- 3- Jordan Textiles Factories Co. closing at JD 4.000 down from JD 4.400
- 4- Arab Insurance Co. closing at JD .830 down from JD .880

12 companies had no change in their share values.

In the over-the-counter market, more than 173,000 shares were handled at a market value of JD 85,000.

Trading in the regular market was distributed among the sectors according to the following percentages:

Sectors	Market share	Last week's share
Banks	69.9%	31.8%
Industry	26%	56%
Services	1.6%	5.1%
Insurance	2.9%	7.1%

Prominent firms whose shares were traded by sector

Banks (out of 20 traded)	Share of sector	Share of market
1- Bank of Jordan	88.5%	61.8%
2- Arab Bank	3.7%	2.6%
Industrials (out of 26 traded)		
1- Arab Aluminium Ind.	25.6%	6.7%
2- Jordan Silicochemicals	26%	6.5%
3- National Steel Industry	21%	5.6%
4- Intermediary Petrochemical Industries	4.7%	1.2%
Services (out of 8 traded)		
1- Arab International Hotels	35.6%	.5%
2- Dar Al Sha'b Press & Publishing Co.	27.7%	.4%
Insurance (out of 9 traded)		
1- Jordan French Insurance	88.9%	1.8%

WEEKLY AVERAGE

Dates	Banks	Insurance	Services	Industries	Average
10-3	-4%	+3.4%	+1%	+0.2%	+2%
11-3	+4%	-9%	-3%	+2%	Zero
14-3	-7%	-1%	+1.2%	+4%	+6%
15-3	+4%	-1.4%	-1%	+6%	+2%
16-3	+1%	+1.7%	+1.2%	+4%	+6%
Total	—	—	—	—	+1.6%

• TENDER NO. 6/87 Supply of uniforms for the Jordan Cement Factories Co. Tender documents are available at the company's offices for JD 5. Closing date: 31 March 1987.

• TENDER NO. 10/87 Construction of bridges at Al Azraq Al Shamali road. Tender documents are available at Zarqa Tenders Directorate for JD 10. Closing date: 25 March 1987.

• TENDER NO. 2/87 Construction of a building for The Ministry of Supply. Tender documents are available at the ministry for JD 125. Closing date: 8 April 1987.

• TENDER NO. 25-26/87 Supply of clothes and soap for Royal Jordanian. Tender documents are available at the Royal Jordanian offices for JD 2 each. Closing date: 25 March 1987.

• IMPLEMENTATION AND finishing for the main building of The Jordan Press & Publishing Co. Tender documents are available from Engineer Moussa Rahab office in Jabal Amman - 1st Circle for JD 50. Closing date: 21 March 1987.

• SUPPLY OF table cloth covers for Amman Hotel. Tender documents are available at the Hotel's supplies section. Closing date: 19 March 1987.

• OPENING AND paving of roads for Um Injeh village council. Tender documents are available at the village council for JD 10. Closing date: 19 March 1987.

• OPENING AND paving of roads for Mahna village council Ajloun Governorate. Tender documents are available at the village council for JD 10. Closing date: 21 March 1987.

• SUPPLY OF high units for Jerash municipality. Tender documents are available at the municipality for JD 10. Closing date: 19 March 1987.

• TENDER NO. 9/87 Printing of school books for the Ministry of Education. Tender documents are available at the ministry for JD 10. Closing date: 23 March 1987.

• SUPPLY OF sewing machines for the Jordanian Armed Forces. Tender documents are available at The Tender Committee offices for JD 5. Closing date: 15 April 1987.

• TENDER NO. 9/87 supply of sheeted apricot and dates for the military Consumer Corporation. Tender documents are available at the corporation for JD 8. Closing date: 22 March 1987.

JONATHAN POLLARD feels he has been abandoned by Israel and the American Jewish community. He spoke to The Jerusalem Post's correspondent in Washington in the only press interview he agreed to give until now. He was interviewed in the federal prison in Petersburg, Virginia.

AS A civilian intelligence analyst from the US Navy, Jonathan Jay Pollard was clearly a rising star. Fellow workers considered him brilliant, marvelling at his seemingly photographic memory. His career was apparently just beginning to take off.

But from April 1984 until November 1986, during the last 18 months of his assignment at the Anti-Terrorist Alert Centre of the Naval Investigative Service in Suitland, Maryland, Pollard also proved to be one of the most important spies in Israel's history.

Pollard, 32, who was arrested outside the Israeli Embassy in Washington on 21 November, 1986, after unsuccessfully attempting to obtain political asylum, was sentenced to life imprisonment after being convicted of espionage. His wife, Ann Henderson-Pollard, 28, was sentenced to five years in prison on lesser charges involving her unauthorized possession of classified documents. Both had pleaded guilty.

During an extensive interview, he said that they felt abandoned by Israel and the American Jewish community. The Pollards are bitter and sad.

During the trial, US prosecutors, in arguing for a stiff prison term, insisted that Pollard was primarily motivated by the money he received from Israel — a charge he strongly denied.

Interviewed at the federal prison in Petersburg, Virginia, Pollard said that he always felt uncomfortable accepting the money but added: "Intelligence operations are not run in gold. They don't run on morality alone. Money is used for very practical purposes, not least of which is transportation. This is a profession. And the money goes for a whole host of things."

In general, he described the money as being used for "operational" expenses. He insisted that at one of the final meetings with the Israeli handlers, he even offered to return some of the \$60,000 which he had received over the 18-month period.

In charge of the unit running Pollard, according to US court documents, was Rafael "Rafi" Eitan, a former high official in the Mossad who later became a counter-terrorism adviser to prime minister Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir. He had played a key role in the capture of Adolph Eichmann in Argentina in 1960. He was also in charge of the Lekem intelligence-gathering unit in the Defence Ministry, a position he retained after Shimon Peres became prime minister and Yitzhak Rabin defence minister in 1984.

Eitan is a close political ally of industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon. Pollard was arrested in the Lekem unit was disbanded and Eitan named the head of Israel's Chemicals, the largest government-owned company in the country.

His deputy is Yosef Yagur who, according to court documents, earlier served as the science counsellor at the Israeli Consulate in New York and as Pollard's second-in-command. Yagur fled the US after being discovered.

Pollard's first handler, the court documents said, was Israel Air Force Colonel Avram Sella. The Washington Post has reported that he was one of the pilots involved in the June 1981 attack

Pollard speaks out...
'A good American; a good Zionist'

against Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor. Until recently, he served as the commander of the Ramon Air Force base in the Negev, and has just been named commander of the Tel Nof base.

US prosecutors charged that Sella officials had originally tried to cover up Sella's involvement with Pollard. Israel has steadfastly refused to allow American investigators to question him about his role. He is supposedly too important to the Air Force to be "sacrificed," even in the name of US-Israeli relations.

Before Pollard's arrest, Sella, considered brilliant, was on the fast track to becoming commander of the Air Force. That is now unlikely since that job involves travelling to the US. If Sella ever shows up there, he will be arrested.

In the Spring of 1984, Sella was on leave from the Air Force, pursuing graduate studies at New York University. According to court documents, he was introduced to Pollard through a mutual friend just when the young intelligence analyst had decided to share some information with Israel — information which he had discovered the US did not want to pass on to Israel.

Pollard had been involved in two official intelligence exchanges with Israel, serving on US delegations, so had a good sense of what was being shared. "I was very frustrated at the end of these two exchanges," he told me. "And the frustration builds." Eventually, he added, it became "relentless."

Pollard recalled his childhood in South Bend, Indiana, where his father, Dr Morris Pollard, is an internationally renowned microbiologist at Notre Dame University. "I guess I would characterize my upbringing as being very politicized, principally from a Zionist point of view."

He said that he had "a fairly standard Jewish upbringing," although a "specific responsibility was the centrality of Israel. It was with me every waking moment. The first flag I remember was the Israeli flag. I started learning Hebrew at a very early age."

He spoke of an uncle who served in the US Army Medical Corps in Europe after World War II and found himself in a position to divert badly-needed medical supplies to Israel. "And all the time growing up, all I heard was stories of individuals who performed very close — who had performed what I call their racial obligation. This is a term with which I grew up."

"I was brought up with the notion that this kind of service was not breaking the law, but was discharging of what I said was the racial obligation. Certainly, it was made easier by the fact that as far as I was concerned — the way I was brought up — there was no difference between being a good American and a good Zionist. Even today, in my mind, I still believe that to be the case."

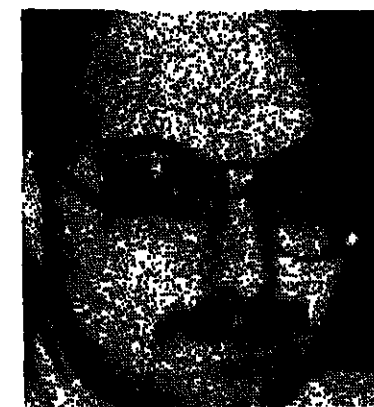
But Pollard was never encouraged to emigrate to Israel. "No," he said, "My future was here."

He said he was "constantly being beaten up at school. I don't want to make this sound like a sad story, but if I had had kids, I would have seriously considered getting them a gun — or, as one of the principals of my school advised, giving them a guard dog which they were willing to approve or teach them at home."

This environment, he said, tended to further strengthen his bonds with Israel, a distant, far-away, seemingly superhuman country that's larger than life —

that in effect represents the self-respect, the physical security which you yourself were incapable of generating." And when he was beaten up, he received some vicarious satisfaction knowing that "the Israelis would beat up a couple of Arab countries."

The frustration remained with Pollard throughout his undergraduate days at Stanford University and later as a graduate student at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. He was still obsessed with



Pollard

Israel and the need to move there even though he had been there only once — one summer at a high school science camp at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot. "For a small kid who could only find satisfaction in a state many thousands of miles away, it was very traumatic."

"What I saw as being most important for me was helping the State of Israel directly. Personal involvement was always something I was brought up to believe — it was the mark of a responsible individual. So I wasn't active in organizations."

Gail Landau, a lawyer in Rockville, Maryland, who studied with Pollard at Stanford, recalled that he had "crashed" his mid-term examinations when the 1973 Yom Kippur War broke out. "He told us he was going to Israel to serve in the army," she said, insisting that Pollard had boasted of being a member of the Golan Brigade, an elite infantry unit.

Pollard, then 18 years old, denied that he ever said that, but confirmed that he had left school and tried to get to Israel. "I made it to the San Francisco Airport," he said, recalling that that was "one of the most frustrating experiences of my life. I just basically wanted to pick up and leave for Israel at that point. I felt guilty. I was a sophomore. I felt guilty over not being there." He never made it to Israel. Instead, he returned to Stanford.

Even after graduate school, he remained in the US, taking the job with the Navy. "My parents said 'you'll be worth more to Israel if you get your education and come to Israel with something useful, which by the way was very reasonable. It was certainly what I would consider to be good, sound advice, both for Israel and for me.'"

Once in the job, he began to come across what he described as "horrifying" threats facing Israel. "There are two realities," he said. "There's the reality of the intelligence analyst and there's the reality of Joe Citizen on the street. And if I were scared for Israel's survival when I was Joe Citizen, not being immersed in that kind of environment in the intelligence community, exacerbated my concern."

He further rationalized his decision to spy for Israel by noting that a strengthened, more confident Israel would in the long run

also serve US interests. "Israel, as we know, is an ally of the United States," he said, "perhaps not in the same way as NATO countries — thank God — because Israel is what I consider to be a more responsible ally."

"It represents a forward beachhead for American interests and power in the region; it contributes significantly to our own intelligence effort, our weapons development programmes, as well as our strategic reach; and it is a leader democracy, the only one in that stretch of territory from the Atlantic coast of Morocco all the way over to the border of India."

"While I admit that Israel perhaps has interests that diverge from those of the US, that divergence is one of degree not substance. Consequently, when one becomes involved in the intelligence process, he becomes aware of the kind of threats that that country is facing, and you have this physical or emotional need to help the state personally, not through organizations, but through self-expression, through personal action, I guess the result is frustration. Frustration built up over the fact that so much of what should have been given to Israel was not."

He said that "vital information affecting Israeli security was being held back by the United States."

"Remember," he added, "if the balloon ever went up in the Mediterranean, I think that the assistance rendered by Israel to the Sixth Fleet would, in particular, be critical in guaranteeing the ascendancy of American arms in the eastern Mediterranean. I don't think there's any question about that. Certainly it would play a much more assured role in our defence than some of our other erstwhile and phlegmatic allies. No names mentioned, but Greece certainly comes to mind."

During his participation in the official exchanges with Israel, he concluded that the US was holding back information. "When the other side is begging for information, pleading for information," he continued, "it's fairly evident that they are not getting it. As you know, in any kind of [official intelligence] exchange, there's a quid pro quo. You never voluntarily give anything, even among friends."

Pollard said that the information he provided offered Israel "a glimpse into the future." He said it represented "the difference between a repetition of the 1973 war, which is what I consider to be a technological Pearl Harbor for Israel, and a 1997 [Six-Day] war. Those are poles apart."

He was alarmed by both the conventional military threat facing Israel as well as the terrorist threat. "As you know," he said, "countries like Syria, in particular, use both in their policy and aggression toward Israel. Now I am getting the complete picture. And I guess one might say an ultimately fatal decision was taken to give expression to those emotional needs that were building up within me for years. I certainly didn't believe at the time, and I was never led to believe, that what I did would harm the United States — far from it."

But he conceded that he broke the law. "I'm not mincing words, I broke the law. I've never considered myself above the law. Unfortunately, I should have gone on my own to Israel at that point — when my ability to discharge my functions as a member of the American intelligence community became incompatible with my emotional need to do something for Israel."

rael. There was a disequilibrium that I should have recognized and I should have defused it by resigning and going to Israel right at that point."

Yet he remains confident that "what I did will be significant to the defence of Israel and to the defence of American interest." He also feels that his actions have resulted in the saving of Jewish lives. "If nothing else," he said, "an Israeli boy or girl is going to be saved. However, here I am, rotting."

His biggest regret is that his arrest has reopened the whole question of "dual loyalty" facing American Jews. "It has permitted the bigots both within the government and without to wrap themselves up in the respectability of the American flag and come out of the closet," he said.

Indeed, the Pollard case has raised suspicions among some US law-enforcement officials of a possibly broader Israeli espionage network in the US using American Jews. Over the years, Justice Department investigators have occasionally probed the activities of some Jewish groups, such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. But they have come up with no evidence of espionage on behalf of Israel.

Still, there are several Justice Department officials who have been trying to get Pollard to implicate various American Jewish leaders as part of an Israeli spy network. While attached to a polygraph machine, for example, Pollard has been asked to read lists of Jewish names and to point out alleged spies. He has repeatedly insisted, according to informed sources, that the Justice Department was already fully informed of the identities of those involved in his conspiracy. He was acting alone, reporting to and working with only those Israeli officials named in the indictment.

For his part, Pollard would very much like to receive some encouragement from the American Jewish community. "It's not a question of their saying that what I did was right because I will be the first to admit that I broke the law. But it's a question of giving the kid a little empathy, that what I did was not motivated to hurt the US but to help both the United States and Israel."

"The fact that they have refused to recognize my existence or even give the time of day to my wife who has really been ostracized as a parish leads me to believe that they lack the moral fortitude which has characterized our people's concern for one another down through the ages. We've never been a people to shy away from our responsibility to brethren who have been in danger."

He said he was also "heartbroken" by the reaction of the Israeli government, which clearly was willing to leave him out in the cold in order to protect the overall American-Israeli relationship. "It is not the country that I hold accountable because I still love that country as fervently, and as passionately as I did before," he said, bitterly differentiating between the country and the government.

Spying, he conceded, is "a dirty business... But then again, I can't believe for a minute that Israel would accept a level of attrition in her Diaspora ranks that she would never accept among her own population. I can't believe that — in a sense — Diaspora Jews are dispensable."

"But there are a lot of things which at one point I never could have believed that I am having to face now as unpleasant but probable truths. I don't know why they have abandoned me. As far as I am concerned, I am as much a loyal son to the country as anybody else. I did my best. I'm sorry. If I wasn't the most effective from a long-range standpoint. But I did my best."



Locked in a hold — 'clubs need to help'

Wrestling needs revival as a competitive sport

By Hamdan Al-Hajj
Star Staff Writer

THE LACK of effort and enthusiasm to spread the Romanian aspect of wrestling was highly criticized in a speech delivered by Mr Ibrahim Al-Awamleh, president of the Jordan Wrestling Federation. He also added that there has been a failure in making people aware of this type of sports. Jordanian champions will however benefit immensely from the experience of the Bulgarian coach.

He recounted the inception of the game in Jordan and revealed that it began in 1982 when the Federation was established. The members of the federation, although unable to provide all the needs, were able to lay a strong foundation.

The difficulties confronting the successful running of the game included financial handicaps; lack of technical equipment; laxity and absence of interest amongst Jordanians as well as failure of clubs to lend a helping hand to the federation because they claimed

that there would be no monetary gains.

Mr Awamleh said that the federation has started making serious contacts with the various clubs to convince them to take on wrestling as one of their activities and to start encouraging people who would like to undertake training sessions.

The future plans of the federation Mr Awamleh said, include a number of internal and external activities as well as the holding of an open championship together with competitions involving the youth scheduled for 19-20 March. A general tournament is to be held at the end of the year in addition to the governorates' championships.

He added that the Federation will host the founder of Kingdom, the late King Abdullah's championship in December with the participation of teams from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq and Egypt.

The federation is a member of the International Wrestling Federation

and it acts according to international regulations which differ greatly from the free wrestling which is looked upon as a commercial commodity without the covering of fixed laws. Citing problems confronting aspiring wrestlers, Mr Awamleh said that they could be identified as the lack of well-equipped sports halls. Discussions will soon be held between the Federation and the Civil Defence Directorate to renew the activities which could lead to the formation of a new team to represent the directorate. It is in the plans of the federation to help the Yarmouk University form a team to practise the Romanian style of wrestling.

He concluded that despite the lack of interest from all the concerned parties, the federation has decided to set up a school to promote the game and to train people at Al-Mahattah. All the prospective wrestlers would be trained under the supervision of professionals and competent coaches.

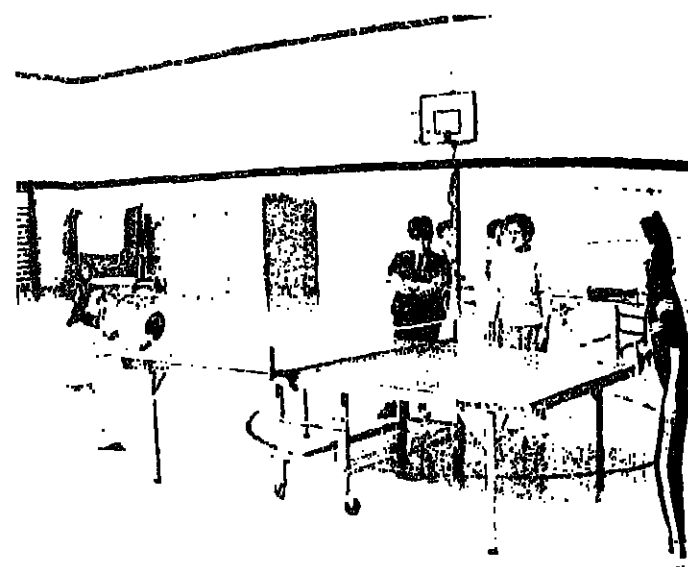


Table tennis gains popularity among girls

Minister patronizes international match

• The Star has learnt from official sources at the Jordanian Football Federation that Mr Raja'i Dajani, Minister of Interior and president of the Federation, will patronize an international football match between Jordan's national soccer team and its Cyprus counterpart at the Amman International Stadium on 25 March 1987. The Cyprus team is expected to arrive in Amman on the 23 March.

Exchange of officials

• The Jordanian Basketball Federation has announced the exchange of officials between Jordan and Syria. The agreement stipulates that Jordanian referees will supervise and take decisions during matches played in Syria while the Syrian referees supervise basketball matches played here.

Water Sports Federation

• Mr Bassam Kakish, President of Aqaba Authority, has presented an official request to the Minister of Information, Dr Eid Daheyyat, for the formation of a special sports federation for water sports with its headquarters in Aqaba. The Ministry of Youth is at the moment studying the request seriously and official sources have confirmed that a new Water Sports Federation will be announced very soon.

New committees for Al-Baq'a club

• The administrative committee of Al-Baq'a Club held its weekly meeting last Saturday under the chairmanship of Mr Fakhr Sa'ad, Deputy President of the club. The decisions taken included the formation of cultural, arts, and technical committees in addition to the club's football, social and volleyball game committees.

Sports week celebration in April

• Dr Khalid Al-Oman, dean of student's affairs at Yarmouk University, has announced that 10 Arab universities as well as Jordanian universities will take part in the annual Yarmouk University marathon race which will take place in April 1987. Dr Oman said that invitations are to be extended to the concerned universities soon. The Star has learnt that this year's sports week will include a boxing championship.

Suburb race by Youth Club

• Last Friday, under the patronage of Dr Eid Daheyyat, Minister of Youth, Al-Istiklal Youth Club organized its annual suburb race which ended at the Amman international stadium. Despite the weather conditions, the race was successfully completed. Prizes were distributed by the Minister of Youth. Winners included Mohammed Farouk, Mohammed Abdul Fattah Abu Shanil, Khalid Khamis, for men. The women winners were: Khadijah Al-Matar, Shiam Al-Abbadi and Hadil Al-Abbadi.

Referees' seminar in Al-Mafraq

• The sports activities department at the Ministry of Education last week held its first football referees' seminar in Al-Mafraq governorate. The seminar was held in the hall of Al-Mafraq industrial secondary school. Both male and female physical training officials of the Ministry of Education participated. The Jordanian international referees, Mr Ahmad Bash, reviewed the football laws. A number of technical questions were raised in which the teachers tested their knowledge practically.

'Sports for all' race

• More than 1,400 competitors have listed their names to participate in the third 'Sports for All' race being organized by the Jordan Sports Information Association on 27 March. The race will be held under the patronage of Mr Zaid Rifai, the Prime Minister. Those still interested in participating should contact the Association at Al-Husseini Sports City.

STAR FEATURES

'My Fat Friend': A jolly good show!

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

WHEN VICKY's boyfriend promises to return from a long business trip in the Gulf to pick up with their romance from where it was left, her two lodgers, James, a young novelist, and Henry, an outrageous tax collector, start a determined campaign on the 13-stone vicky to make her shed a few extra pounds with a course of sauna baths and healthy runs on the beach.

The long-awaited for bronzed-oil man returns with a totally unexpected and hilarious climax.

"My Fat Friend" is a very funny play full of witty dialogue and laughter-provoking situations, yet in the middle of all the fun, the author keeps to truth within his comic situation that makes his characters real and sometimes touching.

In co-operation with Jordan Intercontinental Hotel and British Airways, "My Fat Friend" made its first performance on Tuesday at Al-Badaya Room for a full house audience, who laughed for a continuous one and half hour.

Playing Henry is the internationally famous comedian John Inman, whose name is now established as one of his country's leading entertainers, appearing on television, in cabaret and in numerous stage productions all over Britain and abroad and starring on London's West End stage.

Inman is also "Mr Humphreys" of the TV series "Are You Being Served?" which is seen in dozens of countries and is considered one of the all-time top-rating TV series.



John Inman



Patricia brake

Of his performance as Henry one critic wrote: "Here's the actor who, by style and skill and glowing personality is going to make you have a marvellous evening." And another critic wrote: "I will reveal that John Inman's performance is superbly splendid. His pace and timing are exactly right. A great performance by a very fine actor."

The part of 'Vicky' is played by Patricia Brake who last year had a twice-a-week appearance on British television and has many credits in comedy series and stage productions.

On her role as Vicky one critic wrote: "Victoria, the fat lass who becomes a slimmer beauty, is warm and happy and delightfully independent with the result that Miss Brake can swap blow for blow with the ubiquitous Mr Inman when it comes to stage craft."

The handsome bronzed oil man is Christopher Scouler who also has many credits in television and stage productions and James Anderson is Ian McCurrach who had a previous participation in British Airways Dinnee Theatres as Simon Bliss in (Hay Fever).

The play is directed by Peter Coe, one of England's most distinguished theatre and film directors and currently Director of productions at the Church Theatre.

The tour includes Dubai, Bahrain Muscat, Singapore and Bangkok in the Far East.

The play marks the opening of the 1987 dinner theatre season at Intercontinental Hotel, whose management together with British Airways continue since 1983 to show in Jordan the best comedies and dramas of British Theatre.

Mr. Gabriel Mhawam, the hotel's general manager attended the opening night, hosting at his table Princess Aila, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs and Mrs. Marwan Dudin, Dr and Mrs Daoud Hanania.

Also present were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'ad and Princess Majida.

Houria Laraki: Discovering the ego...

By Frida Mdanat
Special to The Star

HOURLIA LARAKI says painting is one of her hobbies which also includes poetry and writing and hopes to have all her poems published in a booklet in the future.

Last week, her second solo exhibition was patronized by Princess Fahrelnissa Zaid at the Petra Bank Gallery displaying fifty oil paintings done over the past two years with exquisite style and talent.

Mrs Laraki, who is a student at the Fahrelnissa Royal Institute of Fine Art was very encouraged by Princess Fahrelnissa herself, who wrote on the card introducing Mrs Laraki's exhibition, "How extraordinary and what a nonstop intelligence exploring the underworlds known and not known of the mind through the labyrinth of the brain. Houria has discovered her real self and ego since she began to paint and create, how art is great and what enchanting lessons we receive from it."

Quran verses, dominated some works, and were done with pastels rendering the beauty of Arabic calligraphy and faces of beautiful women with large eyes and soft features portrayed with shades of pink and blue depicting Mid Eastern environment.

Those were the two themes where Houria demonstrated her skills and self-developed techniques which, she admits, only acquired through persistent attempts, intensive readings and regular lessons at Fahrelnissa Royal Institute and Fine Art Centre in Amman.



Mrs Laraki

"I am very much influenced by the impressionist school and I read a lot by Claude Monnet," says Houria.

Her art is a blend of the classic and the modern and reflects a genuine artistic talent with a rich future.

Mrs Laraki is the wife of Moroccan Ambassador in Amman, a mother of three children and a socially active woman.

Despite her diplomatic busy life, she finds time for painting saying it is very much self fulfilling and hopes to hold her next exhibition in Morocco, her home-land.

The exhibition which runs until 9 March was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ra'ad and Princess Majida and members of the diplomatic corps and friends.

Arab-Americans voice opinions

AMMAN (Star) — The US Information Agency set up a telephone press conference between two Arab-American figures, Jordanian journalists and politicians on Monday 18 March. The US participants were Dr James Zogby Executive Director of the Arab-American Institute (AAI) and Mr Mitchell Daniels, an Arab-American who occupies a public office in the White House, and the Jordanians were Dr Jamal Shaer, Mr Osama El-Sherif, Dr Nabil Sharif and Mr Salameh Nimal.

"You get influence and power by being part of the political

process" Dr Zogby said. He noted that out of the 2.5 million Arab-Americans, many are holding public office across the country as a result of the 1985, '86 and '87 elections, and they are working towards a unified Arab-American stand in order to influence the American policy in the Middle East, through both the Republican and Democratic parties.

On the other hand, Mr Daniels regretted that the Iran-Gate scandal has damaged the US credibility in the Middle East. "The Iran initiative" he said, "where the president has labelled it a mistake,

accepted the criticism and findings of the Tower Report and has implemented reforms in the way the US practises foreign policy."

Further Mr Daniels, as a political co-ordinator between the White House and the Republican Party confessed that the Iran-Gate scandal has led to the damage of the standing of the Republican Party in the coming elections particularly as the American public associates the Republican Party with Ronald Reagan. Public opinion surveys, said Mr Daniels, show that affiliations with the Republican Party has dropped considerably.



Journalists participating in the telephone-interview

The drive for global female equality gains ground

By Mary Stella G. Bagaeen
Special to The Star

THE EMANCIPATION of women occurred in many countries during the latter part of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th, had a profound effect upon family law and marital property. Many social and legal approaches were introduced, and systems and laws were issued. New features, new revision of civil codes, enactment of new statutes, new matrimonial regulations followed the introduction of legal equality of the sexes. Equal rights to possess, use, and dispose of property; equal rights regarding ownership and management, community sharing systems and laws have been issued.

In most modern countries the husband and the wife have mutual obligations of financial support according to their means, so women seek employment for economic reasons, this trend means more

prestige for women, it means that women own some money and property and on separation, divorce or widowhood, a woman is more likely to be in employment and so not dependent on others for support.

The recent reforms reflect the wishes of both sexes and not only respecting traditional customs, religious attitudes and dogmatic formulae. Equality means that men and women share the same opinions and value the same things, it means protection against violence, distress, ignorance and maladjustments; it means more educational opportunities for women and access to a number of professions and greater chances of promotion.

The number of women's enrollment in higher education doubled during the 1950s, full-time and part-time enrollment have increased in diverse academic sub-

jects and now women are a part of the labour force; no longer regarded inferior, but they enjoy high prestige. Now education is gaining more value, a degree is an asset on the marriage market, a daughter's college education is a better investment than a dowry. Still some jobs are confined to the male labour force, work that needs

A personal view

tough and bodily strength. Tests surveys proved that men excelled in manual achievements as long as motivation was there while women excelled in reasoning skills and social orientation and many fields of work are now considered as women's domain.

Women's status born in the family and in society has been and is radically altered by a combination of scientific and technological advances growing industrial-

ization, changes in the economic and social structure and the spread of new ideologies.

Technology made domestic work easier and women became more attracted to the various fields of occupations, political, technical, administrative and clerical. Still some variations are notable owing to different historical traditions, social customs and class distinctions, but equal rights to vote and to be elected became fundamental to women's status and identity. The increase of married women in the labour force is due to the growing number of women, who return to payed employment in their mid 30s and 40s (age group 35-55). The need for personal contacts and the desire to exercise their abilities and put their previous training to good use is the motive.

One of the functions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, set up in June

1946 was to further the cause of women's political rights in all countries.

In December 1952 the General Assembly adopted the UN Convention of the Political Rights of Women, which was the first instrument of international law aimed at granting and protecting women's rights on a world basis. By 1971, 8 out of 129 countries allowed women to vote, women's suffrage or eligibility for office was subject to certain limitations.

Now the number of women in high positions of political power and influence increased and actual political power was achieved by a handful of actively participating courageous women.

And to adjust a balance to meet the challenges of life the stress is put now on individual talents, abilities, interests and personality traits and initiative without any sexual discrimination.

Jaguar team signs on Watson

AMMAN (Star) — One of Britain's best known racing drivers, John Watson, has signed to join the Silk Cut Jaguar Team in this year's World Sportscar Championship. The 40 year old Ulsterman will compete in all 13 rounds of the championship, which opens with Jarama 380km Sprint in Spain on 22 March.

Watson had his first opportunity to drive the Jaguar XJR-6 during a recent test session on the Paul Ricard Circuit in Southern France. Afterwards he spoke enthusiastically about the car, and the team's chances for the coming season. "I'm very excited about the prospect of racing for Silk Cut Jaguar this year. The car is magnificent to drive, and I think the team has a very real chance of clinching both the team's and driver's titles which they so very nearly won last season."

Watson has had over 10 years Formula One experience, which includes five Grand Prix victories and a runner-up spot in the World Championship in 1982. He first drove a car when he was nine, and



Watson — 10 years of experience

took part in his first race when he was 18. He progressed from an Austin Healey Sprite to a variety of Club Racing Cars, and made his international debut in Formula II in 1969. He graduated to Formula One in 1973, and he won his first Grand Prix for the Penske Team in Austria in 1978. After driving for Brabham in 1977 and 1978, he

joined McLaren in 1979, and stayed with the team until the end of the 1983 season, winning four more Grands Prix with them.

In 1984 he had his first race for Jaguar, sharing one of the Group 44 XJR-6 IMSA cars at Le Mans with Claude Ballot-Lena and Tony Adamowicz. He also drove for the Factory Porsche Team in selected Endurance Races, winning the Fuji 1000 Kms with the late Stefan Bellof. John has done much of his racing in the United States during the last two seasons, competing in the IMSA Sportscar Series.

Watson is the second driver to sign for the Silk Cut Jaguar Team for 1987, joining Holland's Jan Lammers. Two more drivers are yet to be signed to complete the team of four, who will drive the two XJR-6s to be entered in all the Championship rounds, except for Le Mans. Three cars built and prepared by Tom Walkinshaw Racing in collaboration with Jaguar have been entered for the classic French 24-Hour race in June, and it is likely that each will have a crew of three drivers.

The man who made ancestors...

By David Spark

LONDON — He worked naked, and in secret, carving away at logs of wood to produce a unique collection of village sculptures, whose scope has been discovered only recently by a Western researcher.

About a dozen surviving works by the sculptor, known only as Fesira, have been found in isolated villages in the south-east interior of Madagascar, the former French colony in the Indian Ocean.

The extent of Fesira's work was discovered by British Museum Africa expert Dr John Mack, when he and a team of Malagasy assistants explored the 587,000 sq km island to assemble a Madagascar exhibition currently on show at the Museum of Mankind in London.

After trekking around villages in the south-east and talking with local people, Mack learned that Fesira earned a living as a wandering sculptor in the 1930s and 1940s.

He moved from village to village, carving wooden funeral monuments for people who wanted a mem-

orial of Malagasy culture in which the living hope they will be watched over by the dead.

One of Fesira's sculptures portrays a man who served the French when they were the colonial power in Madagascar and who owned the first automobile in his village. Both aspects feature in the man's memorial.

Another sculpture commemorates a group of villagers who drowned when their canoe capsized.

"Fesira was not simply carving memorials, but creating ancestors," said Mack, who first visited Madagascar in 1984 and returned for six months in 1985 to collect material and information for the London exhibition, entitled 'Island of the Ancestors'.

Before his 1985 visit, Mack earned the ancient but still common Malagasy language, which has its origins in Malaysia and Plynestia.

Touring the villages, Mack discovered a dozen Fesira sculptures, all intricately carved and some more than two metres high.

Depending on the size and de-

tail of the sculpture, a single commission could take six to nine months to complete, Mack said.

Little else is known about Fesira. Today no-one knows how or where he learned his craft. His last works probably were undertaken in the late 1940s and he is thought to have died at about that time.

Photographs of Fesira's work are included in the Museum of Mankind exhibition, the first in Britain devoted entirely to Madagascar.

Organized in conjunction with the country's Ministry of Culture and the Museum of Art and Archaeology of the University of Madagascar, it examines historical and contemporary aspects of the island.

A major theme, said Mack, is, who were the ancestors and what is their significance today?

Part of the exhibition concentrates on a theme common to all Madagascar's peoples — the crucial importance of the relationship between the living and the dead," said Mack.

"This is observed most clearly in funerary practices and other ceremonies at which the ancestors are directly invoked, but it pervades all aspects of life and is a constant point of reference."

Major displays include a reconstruction of Madagascar's tombs dating from the beginning of this century; a reconstruction of a typical interior village; and a beach scene displaying an outrigger canoe, symbolic of the importance of the sea in Madagascar's history.

Also on show are paintings depicting traditional island life, gold and silver jewellery, historical manuscripts, weapons, royal regalia and illustrations of Madagascar's flora and fauna.

The exhibits are linked with a recorded commentary by British naturalist David Attenborough.

Madagascar, one of the world's biggest islands with a population of some 10 million, has retained several species that predate the Imerina monarchy which lasted from 1797 to 1861.

Researchers are still puzzled, for example, that Madagascar's mainly African people speak a language of Malayo-Polynesian origin.

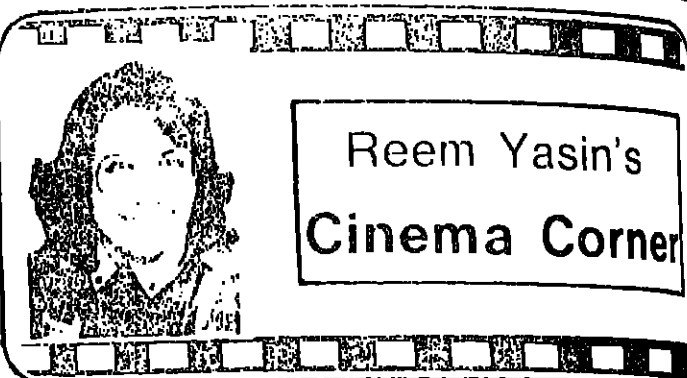
Pointing out that some people in the interior are lighter-skinned and have Asian features, Mack believes the first Madagascans reached the island by way of Sri Lanka and the African mainland.

He does not subscribe to the theory that they sailed directly west across the Indian Ocean because Mauritius and Réunion would have lain in their path, and these islands were inhabited after Madagascar.

Madagascar was united long before it was colonized by the French in 1898. This was begun by Andrianampoinimerena, the first Merina king, who began his career as a clan leader in the centre of the island.

He achieved his ambition to extend his rice fields to the sea partly by conquest and by skillfully building kinship groups into an extended society capable of draining marshes and irrigating fields.

Andrianampoinimerena's legacy lives on today — rice is the island's major crop and the Malagasy have the highest per capita rice consumption in the world. 'Island of the Ancestors' will stay on show until August next year. During its first month, the exhibition attracted more than 20,000 visitors. — *Complete News Features*



Reem Yasin's Cinema Corner

'The Maltese Falcon'

'THE MALTESE FALCON' is one of the celebrated classic available at the American Centre's video-tape library. The film is perhaps the most famous and the most typical of the Hollywood detective films of the forties. An adaptation of a Dashiell Hammett thriller, 'The Maltese Falcon', is a prototype of a whole cycle of taut, tough, witty gangster pictures of the period, the best of which generally starred Humphrey Bogart as the cynical, laconic but incorruptible private detective.

The film was John Huston's first work as director, a most brilliant and stylish debut. 'The Maltese Falcon' has gained legendary status and is unquestionably regarded as a model mystery drama that is graced with compact and incisive dialogue, sharp black and white photography and a beautifully matched set of performances.

The 'bird' in question is a priceless statuette of a jewelled black falcon that has changed owners and places over the past hundred of years. The grand desperately in search of the treasured bird in the film are: Brigid O'Shaughnessy (Mary Astor), the beautiful 'femme fatale', who puts on a schoolgirl act of shyness and propriety — the pompously inflated Kasper Gutman (Sydney Greenstreet) known as the 'Fat Man', a role that was to become his trademark in numerous following performances — and the cowardly Joel Cairo (Peter Lorre).

These people are quite an unsavoury lot, given to murder and double-crossings as they compete for the possession of the Maltese Falcon. Their intense greed is sharply etched as the black bird comes within their reach. However, what compels our interest most in the film is not their quest for the bird (which eventually turns out to be a fake) but their interplaying relationships in which mistrust, treachery and greed guide every thought and every action. The superb casting, of course, is largely responsible for the hypnotic attraction these characters have.

But it is Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart), the private detective caught in this web of deceit, who is the film's most complex and attractive figure. Hard, cynical and un-sentimental (even about his partner's death) he nonetheless adheres to a code that demands justice for that death. "don't be too sure I'm as crooked as I'm supposed to be," he tells Brigid.

The relationship between Sam and Brigid is at the core of the whole film. As she alternates between girlish helplessness and steely determination, Sam cannot help but love and admire, yet mistrust her. At the end it is he who seals her fate yet cannot help regretting cynically, "I hope they don't hang you, precious, by that sweet neck!"

Sam Spade in this film crystallises the Huston hero who is usually in search for paradise, which is lost both symbolically and concrete value (here the statuette itself), but almost invariably finds out that his victory is hollow as it turns to ashes.... Clutching the fake Maltese Falcon in his hands, Sam Spade's last words in the film are, "This is the stuff dreams are made of."

New film releases

Angel heart (R) Mickey Rourke — Exquisitely styled occult film about a seedy gumshoe who descends into a hellish world (good).

Black widow (R) Debra Winger, Theresa Russell — Sui-try woman kills husbands for money, a classy thriller (Good).

Crocodile Dundee (PG) Paul Hogan — celebrated Australian Croc hunter explores the perils of Manhattan (good).

From the hip (PG) Judd Nelson — Hot-shot lawyer creates disorder in the court (Good).

Hoosiers (PG) Gene Hackman — Big hearted small-movie about high school basketball coach and team on the comeback trail (great).

Lethal weapon (R) Mel Gibson, Danny Glover — Cop buddy actioner is compromised by overwhelming violence (Fair).

Light of day (PG) Michael J. Fox, Joan Jett — Fierce family drama with rock music backdrop (good).

Mannequin (PG) Andrew McCarthy — Store mannequin comes to life and sparks romance, lifeless, plodding comedy (boring).

A nightmare on elm street 3 (R) Heather Lagenkamp — another round of gore with the indestructible monster (Fair).

Outrageous fortune (R) Bette Midler, Shelley Long — Female buddy comedy bogs down with silly clichés (Fair).

Over the top (PG) Sylvester Stallone — 'Rocky' formula story applied to arm wrestling competition (Fair).

Platoon (R) Tom Berenger — Powerful, vivid account of Vietnam war, horror and conflicts expertly detailed (Great).

Radio days (PG) Mia Farrow — Woody Allen comedy packed with warm, insightful vignettes of pre-TV era (great).

The new BMW 7 series car made its debut on Sunday at the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) with journalists and, later on, Jordanian public having a closer look at this state-of-the-art vehicle. Accompanying the car all the way from Germany were Mr Michael Shimpke, BMW press spokesman, Mr Marek Nowakowski, marketing director for the Middle East region, in addition to Mr Wolfgang Hayler and Michael Ebenhoch from BMW headquarters. Also attending the press briefing and an evening gala reception were BMW's Jordan representative and agent Mr Hani Abu Na'meh and Fortune Promo Seven General Manager Mr Ahmad Abu Reesh, who came from his Bahrain office to attend the presentation.

Mr Shimpke explained to members of the press the space-age technology which had been put into the 7 series, which includes three models: 735i, 735i and the 730. The series offer BMW's traditional superb quality build in addition to more leg- driving in more communication with the car itself, through its fantastic dashboard, more comfort and above all style with energy efficiency.

Meticulous research and care has been put in every detail from the making of seats, using specially developed foam rubber, to increasing the frontlights power to more than 30 per cent of the previous ones.

In addition the new 7 series boasts a low aerodynamic drag coefficient and sensitivity to crosswinds at high speeds. The car is directed to businessmen and families and although the initial retail price in Jordan will be between JD 40 to 45 thousand, local dealers expect them to sell well in the Jordanian market.

British Embassy Second Secretary Laurence Evans gave a reception last Thursday to introduce the members of the Overseas Development Agency team here to identify projects for British aid to Jordan. The three-man team is headed by John Harris, with Alan Coulthart and Mick Foster. From the British Embassy, Hilary Synnott, Sarah Rowland Jones, Nick Archer and David and Carolyn Whitbread attended. Kamal Jelouga and his wife, Bassam Sunna and his wife, Colin Gard from UNRWA, Mr and Mrs John King, David and Hafidha Latta and other members of the British Council, and many others involved in development work attended.

Also among the attendance, were Mrs Cindy Kanton of the Friends of Archaeology and Mr Saleem Sa'ad honorary council of Ireland.

Jordan is sometimes known as the 'Land of History, Culture and Adventure' something that cannot be matched easily in the 'variety and quality of its touristic attractions.

To make visit worthwhile and more entertaining, high quality four and two-star hotels and about half a dozen more modest government rest houses are strategically located throughout the provincial centres.

But how do prospective tourists get to know of and access the respective hotels?

A recent publication — the Jordan Hotel Directory — with foreword introduction by Mr Zuhair Aljouni, president of the Jordan Hotels Association provides a satisfactory answer. The book gives, in microscopic details, all that needs to be known about the hotels — location, amenities, distance and standard of service.

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al-Hassan, the Society For Care of Neurological Patients will carry out its first activity by organizing an on-foot-march by a number of volunteers across the Kingdom. The 450-kilometre march, which will start from Ramtha city on 1 April 1987 and end in Amman on 10 April, is aimed at raising JD 50,000 in donations to be invested on needy neurological patients.

The organizing committee of the Trans-Jordan welfare march 1987 extends an invitation to all municipal mayors, sport and cultural clubs, universities, schools, colleges, Jordanian, Arab and foreign companies, diplomatic missions, welfare associations, and all ci-



The new BMW

Bashir, Shiham Qassem, Sa'adat Hamid, Wadad Kawa, Wafa Amro, Hiliweh Malhas, Buthaina Jordanian and many other active Jordanians.

Dr Burton MacDonald, from St. Francis Xavier University of Canada and ACOR's annual professor, delivered a very informative and interesting lecture last Monday at the Department of Antiquities Centre.

Dr MacDonald lectured on the recent discoveries (Bronze age and Byzantine age) of his survey in the Wadi Araba. Among the attendance, were Dr Fawaz Sayid, Mrs Wafad Kawa, Dr Rosemarie Samson, and Dr Nancy Lapp of ACOR.

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Head Adnan Hadidi and his wife Taghrid, Kamel and Wadad Kawa, among many others. Peggy and Skip will be missed here but we wish them luck in Washington, and we know they will return to us soon.

The model of the City of Rome was copied in many cities of the world including Amman where Roman amphitheatres and forums identical to these in Rome were built throughout the city in ancient times.

"Planning on the past: The Rome project" is the title of the 80 photograph-exhibition which will demonstrate the similarities in the development of the two cities: Rome and Amman.

The exhibition, organized by the Italian Embassy in co-operation with the Excavation Centre of the University of Turin for the Middle East and Asia, will be patronised by Princess Majida Ra'ad at the Royal Cultural Centre on Monday 23 March at 6:00 pm.

The exhibition, which is currently being displayed in Baghdad and then move to Irbid where it will be exhibited at Yarmouk University in co-operation with the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Thirty oil and acrylic paintings by the Egyptian artist Hisham Razzaz were on display at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) last week, between 9-15 March, including one painting of Amman and another of Jerash, which the artist dedicated to Jordan, saying, "It's the mother which embraced me for three years."

The exhibition which was inaugurated by Princess Wijdan Ali, was attended by members of the Egyptian community in Amman, who shared Razzaz excitement on his first and successful solo exhibition.

The thirty paintings by Razzaz, who is a graduate of the College of Fine Arts in Cairo, represent ten years of work during which he had sought to reach a 'motif' to unify and characterize his works saying that each artist must have a certain motif to identify both his personality and works.



Razzaz

In Irbid, on his exhibition he elaborates on the "strong relationship between the motif of the artist and the cultural structure of his society."

The Paris-Peking Air Rally will have a stopover in Amman on Sunday 22nd March for three days during which they will hold with Jordanian Royal Falcons a joint air-show at Marka Airport and a press conference at the Holiday Inn.

The aircraft crews, participating in the biggest aircraft event ever organized, are racing from Paris to Peking with stop overs in Abu Dhabi, Hong Kong, Singapore, Bombay, Amman and Rome.

French Minister for External Affairs Mr Jean-Bernard Jaffard will open an exhibition at the French Cultural Centre on Saturday 21 March. Entitled 'Eye & Ear' the exhibition presents 60 photographs by two well-known photographers Edouard Boubat and Michel Delabarde. Both artists invite you to a unique journey into nature's wonders with men and women as part of it. Naturally, your eyes and ears will bring you the singing of birds and the silence of stone.

Slide-tape manual guides architects to common elements in Islamic architecture

AMMAN (Star) — "The architecture of Islam exists today in a wide range of countries with different ethnic groups, languages and cultures," says President of the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) of the United Kingdom, John Wells Thorpe, commenting on the appearance of 'Elements of Islamic Architecture' tape-slide programme and manual by Gary Martin.

The project was sponsored by the Aga Khan Award for Architecture in the hope that it will contribute to an understanding of the sense of unity in Islamic architecture by those engaged in designing buildings and planning urban settings in the lands of Islam.

"What unites the many expressions of Islamic architecture, despite the differences in regional setting, climate, building materials and technology is the powerful and transforming doctrine of Islam," says Thorpe.

The aim of the tape-slide programme and manual is to provide an audio-visual aid for practising architects, architectural students and all who wonder about Islamic architecture. It discusses the religious, environmental and cultural influences which have determined the form of Islamic buildings historically, and their importance in developing an Islamic architecture for present and for the future.



The author is a BArch, RIBA, a graduate of the University of Melbourne, school of architecture. He has combined the practice of architecture with keen interest in art history and archaeology and accompanied archaeological expeditions to Iran, Afghanistan and Jordan and conducted surveys of Buddhist, Hindu and Islamic architecture in India and Pakistan.

He is currently a director of Maki Associates in London.

The 40-slide lecture includes a number of building types common in Islamic communities to identify certain common elements and themes, partly visual and partly doctrinal. Some of the historical buildings include Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, Mosque of Sultan Ahmet in Istanbul, Masjid-i Shah Mosque in Istanbul, Friday Mosque in Cordoba and Zaytuna Mosque in Tunis. Mausolea include Khoja-Ahmad mausoleum, tomb of the Samanids in Bukhara, Taj Mahal in Agra and the mausoleum of Qadiriya in Karachi. Educational buildings survey Al-Mustansiriyah Madrasah in Baghdad and Qatar University among others. Al-hambra Palace in Granada, Old Jedah, New Gournah village in Luxor and Bab Boujeloud are listed among domestic and other buildings. Gardens include the Shalimar gardens in Lahore and the Generalife gardens in Granada. The illustrated 40-page manual includes the text of the commentary, notes on the buildings and selected plans of buildings and glossary of terms. The whole package is being sold at £50 plus postage and packing. Orders should be addressed to CAA Projects Ltd. The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT, United Kingdom.



Fesira's memorial to a Malagasy who worked for the French and was the first man in his village to own an automobile.

orial portraying their departed and depicting their life.

When Fesira arrived in a village, local people would build him a house in which to work. No-one but his clients were allowed to see the sculptures while he carved.

He worked indoors, apparently naked — significant in a culture where public nudity is frowned upon but where nakedness symbolizes rebirth.

Fesira was ensuring a "good send-off" for his clients' forebears, Mack said, an essential

Jordan Television
Programme,
Channel 2, from
21 - 27
March 1987



Your
TV guide

Channel
2

Wednesday

8:30 Three's A Crowd, starring John Ritter and Mary Cadorette. Three's A Crowd is the follow-up to the popular American comedy series Three's Company, and is loosely based on the long-running British success, Robin's Nest. John Ritter plays restaurant owner Jack, who lives with his girlfriend Vicki, an air hostess. The couple's busy work schedules don't leave them much time to be together, and when they do, matters are invariably complicated by Vicki's father, Bradford — who also happens to be Jack's landlord.

Bradford doesn't approve of his daughter living with a man, even though he's separated himself, and quite a one for the ladies. He'd like to see Jack split up and does his best to cause trouble between them.

9:10 A Gentle Way With Cancer, episode 4: This programme follows Roger Hadcock and his girlfriend Miley over the next five months as they seek help for Roger's condition from outside conventional medicine. Their journey takes them to towns in Britain and on the continent. But the financial strain and a nomadic life take their toll. Roger's health deteriorates, but he never loses hope, and finally there is some encouragement for all their sacrifices. Though he is not cured, Roger's true marrow is found clear of cancer.

10:20 Captain and the Kings, part 7.

Thursday

8:30 Paul Daniels Show.

9:10 Remington Steele. "Steele Blushing."

10:20 Feature Film, "Ton Between Two Lovers." Starring Lee Remick, Joe Bologna and George Peppard. A married woman meets a divorced engineer. They fall in love, but the engineer asks her to leave her husband for him to marry her.

Friday

8:30 Throb.

9:10 Falcon Crest. The wife suspects her husband in having an affair with his secretary, so she tries to kill the secretary.

7:00 News in French
7:15 French Varieties

Friday

5:30 Feature Film
7:00 News in French
7:15 Aujourd'hui En France

English
Programme

Saturday

8:30 Music Box
9:30 Dad's Army
10:20 Feature Film, "Apocalypse Now". A Vietnam captain is instructed to eliminate a colonel who has retired to the hills and is fighting his own war.

Sunday

8:30 Who's The Boss
9:10 The Day The Universe Changed, "Worlds Without End". This programme reviews the entire series, recalling for the viewer the many systems of belief which have been discarded as the discovery of new knowledge rendered them apparently invalid. The structure of knowledge at any stage of history defines "truth" and provides a framework to ask questions about our universe. The series closes by posing a philosophical question: If each truth is solid in its time, then is knowledge itself only what we make it? Is all discovery merely invention?

10:20 Spearfield's Daughter

Monday

8:30 You Again
9:10 William The Conqueror, last episode
10:20 Simon and Simon.

Tuesday

8:30 No Place Like Home
9:00 Varieties
10:20 The Fourth Arm, episode 12 and the last: An exciting climax of a top-secret mission to destroy a military complex in Northern France used by the Germans.



THE PAUL DANIELS MAGIC SHOW, Thursday at 8:30.

French
Programme
Saturday

8:00 Entrée Libre, episode 3: French Teaching Programme.
8:30 La Représentation de La Connaissance
7:00 News in French
7:15 French Varieties

Sunday

5:30 Les Cinq Derviers

Minutes, Detective story
7:00 News in French
7:15 Documentary Programme

Monday

8:00 "L'aube Des Hommes," documentary
7:00 News in French
7:15 Sport Magazine

Tuesday

8:00 Mollère Pour Rire et

Four Fleurier, episode 9
7:00 News in French
7:15 Classical Music

Wednesday

8:00 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres: A game with letters and numbers.
8:30 L'école Des Fens
7:00 News in French
7:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie

Thursday

8:30 French Varieties



LANVIN Parfums in Paris announced its comeback to the Middle East at a press conference held in Dubai 11 March 1987, by relaunching its ARPEGE range. LANVIN for men and promising several new products for women by next September.

Marc Kapustin, Export Director of LANVIN told newsmen that the company was giving its best selling perfume a "new look". This would be appropriate as the fragrance celebrates its 60th birthday this year. LANVIN itself completed 100 years next year.

M. Kapustin also formally announced the appointment of Dalani International company as local distributor of LANVIN products and Jerusalem Advertising Intermarkets Jordan as their Middle East advertising agency. Photo shows Mr. Kapustin addressing the conference. Ahmed Morsy El Shafie, Hassan Leham, Bassam Dalani and Bruno De Segala are also seen.

ACROSS

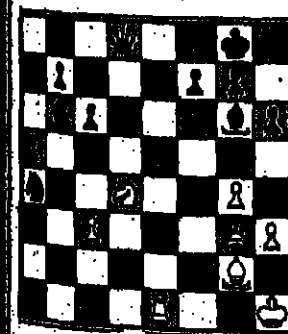
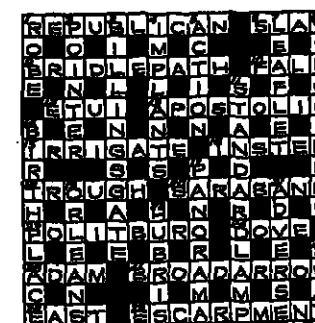
- 1 Description of Grant's soldiers by mine host (10).
- 6 Many involved in rescue, mostly East European (4).
- 9 Where an unemployed Irishman in Bangor rode horses originally? (4).
- 10 Whistling-throw? An easy victim, this guy (4).
- 12 It's the case when odd characters shandon beat music (4).
- 13 So topical, somehow, yet contemporary with the disciples (9).
- 15 Angry about trick to supply with water (8).
- 16 Member partly conforming with others (6).
- 18 He's escaped from the bully-boy's feeding-place (6).
- 20 Steps taken by a Bedouin persuade, in the desert? (8).
- 23 Controlling committee built next resort (9).
- 24 Peaceful flier lost height rapidly in the USA (4).
- 25 A crazy set-back for a furniture designer (4).
- 27 Street in Cumbrian town identifying British Government stores (5).
- 28 Direction to decapitate the brute (4).
- 29 Geographical feature recent maps misrepresented (10).

DOWN

- 1 Royal order for dress (4).
- 2 It indicates a canine breed (7).
- 3 Crooner's entry interrupted by hostile invective (12).
- 4 Inserts supplied by one writing about industrial equipment (8).
- 5 Beginning of play about a military engagement (6).
- 7 Publicity on one of the branches? (7).
- 8 Loved piece, maybe? It transported our forebears (10).

- 11 Customary note to politician providing illumination (8,4).
- 14 At least one delivery is made here (10).
- 17 Broad view of girl kept by parents (8).
- 19 Continental city newly associated with Jelly Roll Morton? (7).
- 21 Opposite to Latin elegiacs, for example (7).
- 22 Knave, say, on King is an excess of ambition (6).
- 25 Marbles set up to strike thus (4).

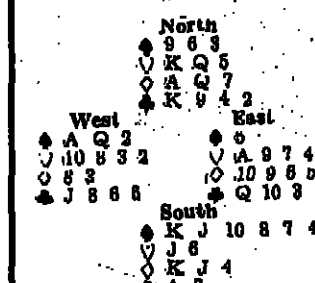
SOLUTION



N. McDonald v S. Conquest. Lloyd's Bank/BOR under-21 championship 1986. While here continued with the interesting sacrifice: 1. Kt x P. P x Kt; 2. B x P, threatening both 3 B x Kt and 3 R - K8 ch. Does Black have a defence to the double threat, and how should the play go?

Chess solution

Black turned the tables by 1... Kt - B3; 2 Q - B2 (if 3 Q - Kt, 4 Kt x P, 5 B - K8 ch, 6 Q x R; 7 B x Q, B - K5; 8 Q - Q7, so that 9 B x Kt, B - K5 ch; 10 K - Kt, B - QKt1; 11 Q x B and now 12 Q - Q3! is an immediate win.



Dealer North. Love all. North-South reaches Four Spades by the simple route of One Club—One Spade, INT—Four Spades. West led the 4 of diamonds and South could see that there was a possible danger of a ruff. He went up with the ace and led a trump, losing to the queen. East played a second diamond. Now South won with the king and led a low spade. Not entirely sane, West went up with the ace of spades, while East, signalled with the 4 of diamonds, ruff naturally followed.

I went after the trump as soon as I could. Both remarked. Yes, that looked natural. I suppose, but bridge is full of traps and here, as you can see, a better line is to play on hearts at trick two. The defenders will play a second diamond, but now South can dispose of his third diamond on dummy's third heart. He loses just one heart and two spades.

It was a tricky hand. I suspect that most players would have done the same as the declarer at the table. I tried it on my computer. I first tried "conventional" (I mean to add) and was not greatly surprised to find that the machine did not perceive the right play. I then tried to add two well, one could hardly expect such an unusual play.

JEANE DIXON'S
Your Horoscope



ARIES — 21 March - 19 April

Get an early start this week to complete weekend chores. You need to keep calm when discussing financial matters. This is not the time to lend or borrow money. Large social gatherings are favoured this week. Dismiss any thoughts about business or finance and concentrate on family and friends. Many hands make light work of household chores. Close emotional ties are in the spotlight this week. Show affection.

TAURUS 20 April - 20 May

Your loved ones' happiness is very important to you this week. It is possible to iron out the wrinkles in a difficult relationship. Someone at a distance figures prominently in your personal plans. Write letters. Communication is at an all-time high. Do not hesitate to discuss even sensitive subjects with loved ones; they are receptive to your ideas and suggestions. A beautiful person makes this week very special.

GEMINI — 21 May - 20 June

A good time to deal with distant affairs. You feel ready to tackle almost anything or anyone. Buy or sell real estate. Shoppers can find some fine bargains. A close relationship intensifies. Do not be shy about using social occasions to further your career, especially if seeking a job change. Be conservative in your dress. Make moderation your watchword in all things.

CANCER — 21 June - 22 July

The people around you this week may be in a sober mood. You can lift their spirits with your gentle humor and easy-going manner. You shine as a host. Plan a sumptuous gathering. Pay more attention to what other people are doing. They could play a major role in your emotional, financial and occupational well-being. Spend your time wisely and pace yourself. Dine out this week.

LEO — 23 July - 22 August

Do not succumb to the temptation to spend more than you can afford. Refuse to listen to extravagant friends who are eager to spend your money. Spend more time with children. Influential person stands ready to help you achieve your personal goals. Show your appreciation in a tangible way. Trust those who mean the most to you. You do not have to go it alone!

VIRGO — 23 August - 22 September

Guard against impulsive buying if you go to a sale. Work harder at your personal relationships. A change of lifestyle increases your comfort. A social event is the highlight of your week. Reading the Sunday papers gives you a terrific idea. Be willing to compromise on practical matters, but refuse to sell yourself short or lower your standards. Escapist, unrealistic thinking accomplishes nothing.

LIBRA — 23 September - 22 October

Discuss an apparent impasse with neighbours or relatives. You should do everything possible to set the record straight. Seek the company of close friends and family. Their support is a source of inspiration! A great day to mix business with pleasure. Be more sensitive to others' needs. Be sure to look your best before leaving home. Appearances count big! Romance looks especially promising for singles.

SCORPIO — 23 October - 21 November

Friends rally around if you have an emergency. Do not worry about asking for special favours. Make full use of the telephone to prevent long and expensive journeys. Marital ties grow stronger. Recent work pressures have faded a bit. Get some rest today so you will be ready for the busy week ahead. Greater tact will help you salvage a personal relationship.

SAGITTARIUS — 22 November - 21 December

Do not dip into money you have set aside to pay your regular bills. Gambling will not pay off. Influential person begins to show interest in your ideas. Put your best foot forward. Domestic issues receive new attention. Socializing and entertaining are on your agenda. Make the most of your week. Welcome a chance to mingle with people from different backgrounds. Your poles wine admiration.

CAPRICORN — 22 December - 19 January

Nothing is likely to upset your plans. Family members look to you for leadership. You will not need to spend a great amount of money to feel happy and content at home. You and that special someone enjoy good rapport now. Count your blessings! Share your ideas with someone who may feel pressured or uncertain. Romantic partner may need more encouragement and support.

AQUARIUS — 20 January - 18 February

You can beat your competitors if you move quickly. Forge ahead. A good day for keeping any health resolutions. Leisure hours should be devoted to self-improvement projects. Get some exercise. You may want to join a group going on an outing this week. Getting together with others will prove rewarding, in more ways than one. Be more spontaneous. Accept a last-minute invitation.

PISCES — 19 February - 20 March

Family members are content to follow your lead this week. Delegate some household chores so that you all will have time to play. Give your loved ones a treat this evening by dining out! You will feel nostalgic this week, especially if you see old school friends. Church or community affairs take up more of your time. New emphasis is placed on harmonious partnerships. Forget past grievances.

THIS WEEK'S CHILD is excitable and behaves in an erratic manner. He seems to know what you are thinking before you do. This keen intuition will be a great asset in business. Although hides his feelings, he will remember any slights. Give his ego plenty of loving strokes. He loves to travel and feels right at home almost anywhere!

Star

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